

AND

Page 44



Page 4



Shania Twain:

She feels like a winner Page 19

© EPSS 2004

1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2004

平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可 (日刊朝し)1月23日及び12月26日休刊
発行所 日本郵政株式会社 〒106-0022 東京都港区日本橋2-2-1
印刷所 日本郵政株式会社 〒106-0022 東京都港区日本橋2-2-1

50¢

18 kicked out or jailed since June after probe of Yokosuka-based ship

Page 3

Page 12



JIM O'DONNELL/Stars and Stripes

Mock evacuees make their way up the loading ramp of a C-130 at Atsugi Naval Facility, Japan, on Thursday bound for Japan's Tsuiki Air Base on Kyushu. The group of 50 was participating in the NEO (noncombatant evacuation operation) phase of the Keen Sword 2005 exercise. The exercise was to conclude Friday.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown NewspaperCOMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Grill the bird
this Thanksgiving

Scene on Sunday

Many flipping
for new sportDon't miss a
single issue.

For home delivery, call DSN
225-4505 (Japan)
721-7140 (Korea)
645-2010 (Okinawa)

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	30
American Roundup	22-23
Classified	31-35
Comics	28-30
Crossword	29
Faces	19
Horoscope	28
Letters	26
Opinion	27
Sports	40-48
TV listings	38
Weather	39
Your Money	21

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Afghanistan opium wars: Afghanistan is on its way to becoming a "narco-state" and U.S. and NATO-led forces in the country should get more involved in fighting the drug trade as well as terrorists, according to a U.N. report released Thursday.

The agency found that this year's cultivation of opium — the raw material for heroin — was up by nearly two-thirds. Bad weather and disease kept production from setting a new record, although it still accounted for 87 percent of the world supply, up from 76 percent in 2003.

The illegal trade is booming despite political progress in the country, including the first presidential election, and local drug control efforts led by British military advisers.

Darfur negotiations: A swift conclusion of an agreement to end the 21-year civil war in southern Sudan is critical to solving the rest of the problems in Africa's largest country, government, rebel and U.N. officials told the U.N. Security Council on Thursday.

The council was meeting in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, to focus attention on Sudan's two civil wars and an enormous humanitarian crisis. Southern rebels have been fighting the government since 1983, and the western region of Darfur erupted into violence in February 2003.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged the Security Council on Thursday to issue "the strongest warning" to all of the forces fighting in Sudan. He added that an agreement to end the war in southern Sudan would provide a basis for bringing peace to Darfur.

Space station troubles: A Russian space transport ship failed to fully raise the orbit of the International Space Station in preparation for next month's docking of a supply ship, a Russian news agency reported Wednesday.

Alexander Kiryeyev, head of the ballistic coordination group at Russia's Mission Control outside Moscow, said the docked Progress transport ship was supposed to raise the orbiting station by about 2.8 miles, but the ship's engines were not strong enough.

He said the station was raised by only 1.68 miles, but that it would still be enough to allow a new transport ship, scheduled to be launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Dec. 23, to dock.



Bonfire tragedy commemorated: A visitor views the memorial to honor the 12 students who died and 27 others who were injured during the Nov. 10, 1999, collapse of the Texas A&M University bonfire in College Station, Texas. The memorial was the site of an intimate and silent ceremony Thursday, as hundreds gathered at 2:42 a.m. — the exact time of the collapse — on the grassy field where 12 Aggies were killed and 27 others were injured in 1999. The \$5 million memorial's centerpiece is a circle of 12 rectangular arches, one for each victim. They are connected by 27 large stones, symbolic of those injured.

Kidnapped U.N. workers: Three U.N. workers kidnapped three weeks ago in the Afghan capital remain out of reach, a government official said Thursday, as the world body appealed again for their release.

Armed men seized Philippine diplomat Angelito Noyan, British-Irish citizen Annetta Flanagan and Shqipie Hebib of Kosovo on Oct. 28, in the first kidnapping of foreigners in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban three years ago.

"There is no update," Interior Ministry spokesman Latulfil Mashal said Thursday.

States

Peterson trial: The attorney representing Scott Peterson, who was convicted of killing his pregnant wife, wants a new jury in a different county to decide whether Peterson gets the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos made the request in a motion filed Wednesday in San Mateo County Superior Court. The details will not be made public until after Judge Alfred A. Delucchi reviews the file before the scheduled start of the penalty phase Monday morning, which could now be delayed.

Al-Qaida intelligence: The Clinton administration was deeply concerned in 2000 that al-Qaida sleeper cells existed in North

America and considered ways to move against them, according to newly released testimony.

"There were two simultaneous plots, one in Jordan and one in the United States, and they both involved American citizens," Bush administration critic Richard Clarke testified in June 2002 before a congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The release of Clarke's 2002 testimony stems from Republican attempts to undermine his criticism of the Bush administration.

Military

Brownlee resigns: Les Brownlee, the highly decorated Vietnam veteran who served as acting secretary of the Army for 18 months after Thomas White was fired, submitted his resignation Wednesday.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said Brownlee's resignation is effective Dec. 3. Brownlee, 65, joined the Bush administration as undersecretary of the Army in November 2001. He took on the added responsibilities of acting secretary in May 2003, when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld dismissed White after a series of disputes over the pace of the Army's force modernization.

On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Francis J. Harvey as the next Army secretary. Stories and photo from The Associated Press

"The photo
is actually
woven
into the
blanket
so wash
after wash
the image
will never
fade."

Family

Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird



Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day

give the **Gift** of
memories FOREVER

PERFECT FOR CHRISTMAS!

Go to www.StripesClub.com and click the TreasureKnit ad to order your personalized photo blanket today!

USS Vincennes cracks down on drug use

Sailors found guilty to date have been kicked out of Navy or sent to jail

BY GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

Eighteen USS Vincennes sailors determined to have used illegal drugs have been jailed or discharged from the U.S. Navy since June for drug offenses.

"In accordance with Navy's zero-tolerance policy on illegal drug use, Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet has an aggressive detection and enforcement program," stated Cmdr. Scott Gureck, a 7th Fleet spokesman, responding Thursday to an e-mail news query.

"Drug use will simply not be tolerated in the Forward Deployed Naval Force, and those who use drugs should know that they cannot beat the system," he noted.

Investigators from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, with assistance from Japanese investigators, initiated an investigation based on a tip they received in

June that one or two Vincennes sailors were using drugs, he stated.

"The majority of the illegal drug use occurred off base. In one instance, two sailors used drugs while the ship was under way, endangering other crew members and potentially affecting the ship's readiness," Gureck stated.

"No accidents or injuries have been linked to the drug-use cases," he added.

The NCIS investigation ultimately uncovered evidence that 19 sailors used marijuana, cocaine and designer drugs such as Ecstasy (methylendioxymethamphetamine). The Navy declined to provide the names of those involved.

Eighteen of the 19 Vincennes sailors were found guilty of illegal drug use. Two sailors involved in trading drugs with other crewmembers were convicted at courts-martial in June. "Both served a term

See more local stories on Pages 4 and 12

of confinement," Gureck wrote from the USS Blue Ridge, Seventh Fleet's flagship, while it was under way near Saipan.

"The remaining sailors were processed for administrative separation from the Navy. They all received less than honorable discharges. In fact, 95 percent received an Other Than Honorable Discharge, a black mark on an individual's record with a lifelong career-limiting impact," he stated.

An other than honorable discharge is the most severe of administrative discharges, according to a Navy judge advocate gen-

eral online checklist, levied when a sailor commits "one or more acts that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected from members of the naval service."

Initiating an NCIS investigation is one of several actions taken by 7th Fleet in enforcing the Navy's zero-tolerance policy for illegal drug use.

Other actions include more random urinalysis testing, better test monitoring and sequestering individuals selected for testing so they are unable to take actions to counter the testing, the spokesman stated.

"The commanding officer has been, and will continue to conduct random urinalysis to the maximum extent allowed: 40 percent of the crew per month," Gureck stated.

LT Cmdr. John Maksym, Yokosuka's military judge, dismissed one of the Vincennes cases in Oc-

tober after deciding the ship's commander might not be sufficiently "neutral and detached" to preside over post-trial proceedings, according to a previous Stars and Stripes report.

"Judge Maksym sent the case to Rear Adm. James Kelly, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 5, of which the Vincennes is a part. Rear Adm. Kelly has since administratively separated the sailor from the Navy," Gureck noted.

"There will always be a small percentage of sailors who think they can use illegal drugs and not get caught," he stated when asked why one ship has so many offenders.

"The fact is that sailors who choose to use illegal drugs will be caught," he added.

The investigation into the source of the drugs continues.

Nancy Montgomery contributed to this report.
E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stripes.com

Sweets, party mark Essex halfway point

BY GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

Halfway through a deployment in the North Arabian Gulf supporting the war in Iraq, sailors serving on the USS Essex received a super sweet deal last week.

The deployment allowed some culinary creature comfort on Nov. 13, the final day in the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, as well as Monday during a flight deck cookout, stated a Navy news report released Thursday.

Kuwait Naval Force Deputy Director of Operations LT. Col. Abdul Al-Owaish boarded the ship bearing gifts of more than a dozen boxes of Kuwaiti-style baklava. The baklava was put on the mess decks for the crew to enjoy.

"I've brought our sweets aboard as a show of friendship," noted Al-Owaish. "I'm happy with the relationship we've built between us (the Essex and Kuwaiti forces) and to give the Essex's crew a sample of a traditional Ramadan dessert for all to share. ... It's an honor to be here."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Trent J. Thurston, a firefighter, stated he loved sampling the delicacy, and in the report, he pointed to the interesting difference in what people aboard Essex expected of baklava, and what it proved to be.

"The Kuwaiti baklava is more of a cookie than the Turkish style," Thurston noted.

In a separate opportunity, the Essex crew gathered on the flight deck Monday, lit a fire in a long charcoal grill and flipped hamburgers and hot dogs en masse while enjoying the afternoon "steal beach" picnic, Commander Task Force 76 officials said Tuesday.

The Essex is the flagship for Commander Amphibious Squadron 11. The deployed Essex Amphibious Ready Group is made up of the Essex, USS Juneau and USS Harpers Ferry.

Along with the USS Fort McHenry, rescue and salvage ship USS Safeguard, and minesweepers USS Guardian and USS Patriot, the Essex ARG ships typically operate from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stripes.com



RICHARD JASMIN/Courtesy of the USS Essex

Sailors enjoy a steel beach picnic celebration on the flight deck of USS Essex on Sunday. Essex is an amphibious assault ship currently operating as the flagship for Commander, Amphibious Squadron 11. The Essex Amphibious Ready Group is operating in the North Arabian Gulf in support of the sovereign government of Iraq. The ship and crew typically operate from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

'Champagne Chef' visit

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Keith Jones, known as the "Champagne Chef," will appear at several functions on base this weekend.

An award-winning cook who specializes in French techniques, Jones uses his chef's table, classes and food forums to entertain audiences with unique antics and in-depth presentations of culinary artistry.

On Friday, he was slated to visit the Samurai Café from 10:30 to 11 a.m., followed by a cooking demonstration near the commissary's produce section from noon to 2 p.m. After attending the Samurai Taiko Team's weekly practice from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Taiyo Recreation Center, Jones was to conduct another demonstration in the base exchange from 9 to 10 p.m.

The "Champagne Chef" is to return to the commissary's produce section on Saturday for a cooking demonstration from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit his Web site at www.champagnechef.com.

Food drive to aid orphanage

Cub Scout Pack 34 at Camp Zama, Japan, is holding its annual food/baby items drive from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday outside the Sagami-hara Housing Area Commis at the Taiyo Recreation Center.

All collections will be donated to the Aikeikai Orphanage in Machida, which houses children 5 and younger.

The following items are needed: rice, canned fruits and vegetables, diapers, dehydrated potatoes, wet wipes, baby food, juice boxes and bottled juice.

The Zama Cub Scouts are to deliver the donations to the orphanage tentatively on Dec. 11.

Contact Tom Snider at DSN 263-4233 or den4@zama-pack34.com for more information.

From staff reports

Correction

A photo caption on the front page of Friday's edition misidentified the airplane shown. The aircraft was actually a Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-15.

Winter bike ban relaxed

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Bicycle enthusiasts are rejoicing. Two wheels no longer are an outlawed winter mode of transportation at this northern Japan base.

Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa installation commander, announced at Thursday evening's town hall meeting at Toboku Enlisted Club that he plans to rewrite the community standard prohibiting residents from riding bicycles on base between Nov. 15 and March 31.

"I've always had trouble with the 15 November than shall not ride bikes anymore until I say so kind of thing," said Rew, who served a previous tour at Misawa as 35th Operations Group commander from 1998 to 2000. "I've always said if I'm king, I want to change it. And so today, I've changed it."

The winter bike ban has been a prickly topic among base residents, especially because Japanese who live and work on the base are permitted to ride their bicycles year-round. Rew said the topic was raised again this week at mandatory winter awareness briefings.

Many adults and children like to ride bikes for fun, fitness or "just for transportation," he said. Sometimes winters are late, sometimes spring comes early, and often sidewalks may be passable for weeks after the snow is cleared, he added.

"Those kind of inconsistencies I want to address as the wing commander," Rew said. "I hate legislating judgment down to the level that irritates people."

Base residents still won't have carte blanche to ride bicycles in winter time, some rules will still apply. Rew said he's instructed wing safety personnel to add a bicycle symbol daily to the commander's access channel, depicting when the roads and sidewalks are and are not OK for bicycles.

Those who prefer motorized two-wheel transport aren't as fortunate. The Nov. 15 to March 31 motorcycle ban still holds.

"I am legislating that judgment and I'm not going to apologize for it," Rew said. "The weather changes very quickly here in the winter and you can very easily get yourself in a very dangerous situation. We've had a number of motorcycle accidents this year, we've hurt some airmen and some Japanese folks."

With Rew at the meeting to answer questions was

a panel of base military and civilian leaders — subject matter experts and those representing various units. Questions were taken via e-mail before the meeting and in person and by phone during the two-hour session. The event was televised on base and broadcast on EDGE Radio 1575 AM.

About 100 people did not get their questions answered, base officials said. Some of those unanswered queries were to be addressed Friday morning during the Commander's Open Line Radio Show and in the base publication "Northern Light."

Topics that did receive air time Thursday included speeding — too much — and parking — not enough. Rew was asked what can be done about drivers who speed through the parking lot in front of the Potter Fitness Center. The commander agreed the issue needs to be addressed and said base leaders will consider temporary speed bumps and other possible remedies.

Rew said he plans to start holding meetings next week about inadequate parking for the housing towers due to recent force protection landscaping.

"I'm not convinced we're maximizing the parking spaces that we have," he said.

One caller complained about Potter Fitness Center rules he thought too restrictive; they prohibit his son from playing basketball there without adult supervision.

"I want him to stay active instead of playing video games," the man said.

Rew agreed, adding that after reviewing Air Force Instruction, he changed the policy. The same rules that apply to 14- and 15-year-olds at Potter now also apply to 13-year-olds. They can use the basketball and racquetball courts without supervision but must be with an adult when using the weight room or cardiovascular machines.

Other topics raised throughout the evening included the gas prices at Misawa's Army and Air Force Exchange Service station. Misawa Naval Air Facility Command Master Chief Michael McCarthy noted that gasoline is 20 cents less per gallon at Navy bases in Japan.

Another caller complained about lack of maternity clothes at the base exchange. AAFES general manager Wayne Hansen said the store doubled its maternity merchandise from last fall and will do so again this spring.

"We now have four sales fixtures on the floor" plus holiday wear, he said.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@pstripes.osd.mil



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Rick Gomez, manager of Los Guerreros restaurant at Misawa Air Base, Japan, talks to his staff before lunchtime customers arrive Tuesday. The 35th Services Squadron recently opened the Mexican restaurant at Gosser Memorial Golf Course to replace Pancho Villa restaurant, which closed earlier this year.

Misawa hopes diners say 'si' to overhauled Mexican restaurant

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Fajitas are sizzling again at the golf course.

Los Guerreros is the second Mexican restaurant to open this year in the spacious 96-seat dining facility next to Gosser Memorial Golf Course, overlooking Lake Ogawara.

Officials with 35th Services Squadron are trying to woo back customers with pledges of top-notch service and good food.

"If folks haven't come to experience us yet, I think they'll find some of the best customer service and a great dining experience," said Tony Holmes, general manager of Misawa's officers and enlisted clubs.

The restaurant threw its grand opening event last week, though a quiet "soft opening" was held in October while staffers finished training, Holmes said.

This time around, the 35th Services Squadron is taking the helm of Misawa's much-anticipated Mexican restaurant.

"We felt that Services could supply the community's needs better than a contractor," Holmes said.

The restaurant formerly was named Pancho Villa and run by concession holder and Tokyo-area restaurateur Dave Scott. Scott runs a small Pancho Villa near Sagami and one at Yokota Air Base.

Before Scott's tenure, Misawa Air Base sank about \$600,000 into building renovations, including a redesigned kitchen, outdoor patio and Mexican-themed interior. When Scott opened Pancho Villa in late March, expectations were high, base officials said. But he was cut loose in July. Base officials said then that they couldn't

disclose why due to the nature of their contract with Scott. Customers interviewed at the time by Stars and Stripes complained of lousy service.

Holmes said diners won't be disappointed again.

"As far as the other restaurant, there were three major concerns," he said, "good customer service, food that tastes good and — if you ate at the other restaurant, everybody will be able to appreciate this — everybody gets served at the same time."

"If you walk in with a party of six," he pledged, "the party of six will get served at the same time."

Holmes helped launch Los Guerreros, which translates as "The Warriors." The executive chef of Yokota Air Base's Officers

Club, who has experience in San Antonio's Mexican restaurant business, designed the recipes and spent two weeks at Misawa training the kitchen staff, Holmes said.

He said menu selections are comparable to the former restaurant, although the

recipes differ. Lunch and dinner menus are the same, in the future, he said, the staff hopes to create a lunch menu for customers who aren't on base.

Restaurant manager Rick Gomez said the chicken enchilada is unusual "because it comes with a white sauce" but the fajita seems to be most popular.

"We serve it on a sizzling platter," he said, which turns heads. "Next time customers come back, they want to get the fajita."

Los Guerreros will open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. It will be closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. Call the restaurant at DSN 222-4639 for more information. Reservations are not accepted.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@pstripes.osd.mil

If she ran the school ...



JIM O'DONNELL/Stars and Stripes

Shirley Lanham Elementary School first-grader Kiersten Maurer talks to Talented and Gifted resources teacher Tracy Heinrichs about her winning poster for American Education Week. Kiersten won a \$10 Navy Exchange gift certificate for her poster describing what she would do if she were principal. Kindergarten and first-grade entries were in the form of posters, while entries in second grade and above wrote essays. The other winners from SLES were: kindergarten, Jaelyn Coelfield; second grade, Caesar Corpuz; third grade, Joyce Goolsby; fourth grade, Airi Yamada; fifth grade, Aldrin Lalas; sixth grade, Nikki de los Reyes.

U.S. troops may have found al-Zargawi HQ

By TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday said they believe they have found the main headquarters of the insurgent group headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In video shot by an embedded CNN cameraman, soldiers walked through an imposing building with concrete columns and with a large sign in Arabic on the wall reading "Al Qaida Organization" and "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Inside the building, U.S. soldiers found documents, old computers, notebooks, photographs and copies of the Quran.

Al-Zarqawi last month renamed his group al-Qaida in Iraq, and his followers have been blamed for a number of deadly bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans and a Briton. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for his capture or killing — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

The senior U.S. Marine commander in Iraq cautioned that the discovery by soldiers in Fallujah still was being investigated.

Official: CARE worker killed

CANBERRA, Australia — Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Thursday a body found in the strife-torn Iraqi city of Fallujah likely was that of kidnapped aid worker Margaret Hassan.

Howard did not say which body he was referring to but on Sunday, Marines found the mutilated body of what they believe was a Western woman on a street in Fallujah during the U.S. assault on the insurgent stronghold.

Hassan was a British citizen born in Ireland and married to an Iraqi man.

From The Associated Press

"I cannot stand here and tell you that we found the command and control house or building where Zarqawi was aimed and orchestrated and dealt his [car bomb]... and the other death and destruction that he has spread throughout the country of Iraq," Lt. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon in a video teleconference from Fallujah. "We will continue to look for that."

In neighboring Jordan, authorities detained al-Zarqawi's nephew near the border with Iraq, a distant relative and a clergyman close to the family said Thursday.

The clergyman and the relative, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said security officials had informed the family that Mohammed al-Harashsheh was detained last month. The relative said al-Harashsheh was being questioned on suspicion of attempting to infiltrate into Iraq to join his militant uncle.

Calls to al-Zarqawi's family home in Zarqa, an industrial city northeast of the Jordanian capital, Amman, went unanswered. Also, Sattler said the U.S.-led offensive launched last week in Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency" by seizing their main base of operations.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," he said.

Sattler's conclusion was far more optimistic than an assessment made only before the offensive by Marine intelligence officers, who said the insurgency would rebound if U.S. troop levels in the area were significantly reduced after the offensive.

Sattler cautioned, however, that insur-

gents remained a threat. A group attacked U.S. Marines and Iraqi government forces from a house inside Fallujah on Thursday, killing one Marine and one Iraqi soldier, Sattler said. One Marine and one Iraqi soldier also were wounded.

Sattler said the total U.S. death toll so far in the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, stands at 51, with about 425 wounded in action.

U.S. and Iraqi forces arrested 104 suspected guerrillas in an insurgent neighborhood in central Baghdad, including nine who are believed to have fled Fallujah, Interior Ministry spokesman Sabah Khadim said. Most were Iraqis, although Syrians and non-Iraqi Arabs were among the group, he said.

Also, insurgents detonated a car bomb near a U.S. military compound in Baghdad and a roadside bomb exploded at a job retraining center in the northern city of Kirkuk in attacks that killed a total of four people and wounded eight, police and officials said.

Insurgents also fired 10 mortar rounds at the provincial administration offices in the northern city of Mosul, wounding four of the governor's guards, authorities said. Gov. Duraid Kaskasla was unhurt in the attack, spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said.

Services tell Congress: Fight in Iraq requires more funding

By ESTHER SCHRADER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Continued fighting in Iraq is straining U.S. forces nearly to the breaking point, even as the Pentagon pumps more than \$5.8 billion per month into sustaining its forces there, the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines told Congress on Wednesday.

In testimony to the House Armed Services Committee, the service chiefs said the military would need considerably more money for Iraq over the next year. The chiefs of the Army and Marines in particular stressed the increasing difficulty of recruiting and retaining soldiers, and then equipping them for combat.

"Make no mistake, today we are at war," Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, told lawmakers. "And we should not make the mistake of thinking this war will end in a year or two."

The Marine Corps is spending about \$300 million per month on the missions in Iraq or Afghanistan, Hagee said, and is deploying its forces on a new "one to one" ratio of seven months deployed, seven months home, and then another seven-month deployment.

In the past, Marines were accustomed to a "one to three" tempo, being deployed for six months, allowed to remain at their home base for 18 months before they could be expected to set sail again, Hagee said.

In the last year, as the insurgency in Iraq has grown, "the demand on the force has increased exponentially," Hagee said. "This demand is especially telling in the strain on our Marines, their families, and on our equipment and materiel stocks."

The Corps has activated "approximately 99 percent of selective Marine Corps reserves" to meet deployment needs, Hagee said.

As for equipment, approximately 13 percent of the Marines' ground equipment and 25 percent of aviation equipment is deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, Hagee said, adding \$8 billion to \$10 billion in

extra maintenance costs to the service's budget.

For the Army, which has 110,000 soldiers serving in Iraq — five times as many troops as the Marine Corps — the strain is particularly acute, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said.

Overall, with 145,000 reserve component soldiers mobilized, the Army now has 640,000 to 650,000 soldiers on active duty, which is 25,000 soldiers more than Congress has authorized the active force, Schoomaker said.

Moreover, the service is not only procuring its largest, most extended war since Vietnam, it is also doing a 180-degree reorganization into smaller, more independent formations.

To do both Iraq and transform at the same time is "like tuning a car while the engine is running," Schoomaker said.

A top priority for the Army is increasing the number of armored Humvees in Iraq, Schoomaker said, "but it's been a moving target," because the requirements keep increasing.

The service now has about 5,600 armored Humvees in Iraq, with a goal of having 8,600 by next year, Schoomaker said. The service has also made the decision to armor all of its vehicles in that country, he said, mostly with add-on kits that manufacturers are now racing to turn out by the thousands.

The Army has also sent more than 400,000 sets of body armor to its forces in Iraq but needs 373,000 more this year, Schoomaker said.

The service needs so many sets of armor because it is responsible for providing the equipment to all U.S. military and civilian government forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraq security services and coalition partners.

The Army has also scrapped its former practice of "evacuating out" protective equipment at staging areas in Kuwait from departing units to those about to go into Iraq, Schoomaker said.

Instead, the Army's goal now is to pro-



From left, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., talk before the start of Wednesday's House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington.

vide advanced body armor to units before they leave the United States, so troops can train and become accustomed to the gear, the four-star chief said.

The Army is also rushing to provide its troops with 41,600 more radios, 33,500 M-4 carbines and 25,000 machine guns, and to repair thousands of tactical wheeled vehicles, Schoomaker said.

"I'm talking about quite a large-scale deal," he told the committee.

The Air Force also is feeling the strain, Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, told lawmakers.

Right now, there are 30,000 airmen deployed to 16 bases in Southwest and Central Asia, Jumper said, and the high deployment tempo has forced service officials to "reset deployment time from 90 days to 120 days."

Meanwhile, about 20 percent of the Air Force, airmen whose skills are in very high demand, such as security forces, are often deployed for 180 days and as long as one year, Jumper said.

In order to assist the Army with its skills shortages, about 2,000 airmen have been trained by soldiers and are doing truck convoy duty over Iraq as well, Jumper said.

Committee members expressed their concerns regarding the strains on both troops and equipment.

"It's obvious our people are tired, and we're wearing out our equipment at a faster rate," Democrat Ike Skelton of Mississippi, the ranking minority member of the committee, said. "We're at the breaking point on equipment."

Considering the tempo of operations in Iraq, especially lately, such conditions are understandable, Skelton said.

But "what's not understandable is our inability to address this issue before it becomes a real crisis," he said. "We've got to be honest. Our servicemen and their families should be sure to have the necessary forces" to complete their missions.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.

IN THE WORLD

Powell says Iran trying to fit missiles for nukes

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — The United States has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell partially confirmed claims by an Iranian opposition group that Tehran is deceiving the United Nations and is attempting to secretly continue activities meant to give it atomic arms by next year.

"I have seen intelligence which would corroborate what this dissident group is saying," Powell told reporters Wednesday as he traveled to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Santiago.

Pressed by reporters on the intelligence reports, Powell said the intelligence indicates that Iran "had been actively working on delivery systems" capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

Powell said there is no evidence to suggest that Iran has developed the technology to make a nuclear weapon, but suggested that the regime is working to adapt missiles for nuclear warheads.

"I'm talking about information that says that they not only had these missiles, but I'm aware of information that suggests they were working hard as to how to put the two together," Powell said.

A senior official for the National Council for Resistance in Iran said Tuesday that a bomb diagram — along with an unspecified amount of weapons-grade uranium — was provided to Iran by Abdul Qader Khan, the disgraced former head of Pakistan's nuclear development which was tied to both Iran and Libya.

He said the designs were handed to the Iranians between 1994 and 1996, while Khan delivered HEU — highly enriched uranium — in 2001.

Banned in the United States as a terrorist organization, the group was instrumental in 2002 in revealing Iran's enrichment program in the central city of Natanz, based on what it said was information provided by sources in Iran.

The opposition group says a facility at Lavizhan-Siyan northeast of Tehran was part of a secret nuclear weapons program.

Powell declined comment on Khan, but said, "For 20 years, the Iranians have been trying to hide things from the international community."

Iran says its sole interest is to generate nuclear fuel through low-level uranium enrichment, but the United States suspects Iran wants to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Enrichment does not violate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but the International Atomic Energy Agency and most of its members want Iran to scrap enrichment plans as a confidence building measure.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the claims by the United States and the dissident group were intended to damage Tehran's relations with Europe and the U.N. nuclear agency.

Iran announced suspension of enrichment last week, and the agency said it would police that commitment starting next week, in advance of a Nov. 25 IAEA board meeting.

The pledge reduced Washington's hopes of having the board refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for alleged violations of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Italy offers way out of U.N. cloning dispute

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Italy has offered a compromise on human cloning that seeks common ground among U.N. member states who are sharply divided over competing treaties to ban the practice, diplomats said.

It was too early to say whether the compromise will help settle the dispute before Friday, when the U.N. General Assembly's legal committee had planned to vote on the two offers if the sides couldn't agree on one text, Belgian diplomat Marc Pecsteen said.

"We're making progress," Pecsteen said on Wednesday.

The issue of a global treaty on human cloning has exposed a stark rift in member states' attitudes. A proposal from Costa Rica would ban all human cloning, while the other, from Belgium, would ban reproductive cloning but allow countries to use embryos for stem cell and other research.

The Italian offer is a modified version of an old Belgian text, Pecsteen said. He said the Italian changes were not acceptable to the Belgians, but talks were continuing.

The document, obtained by The Associated Press, calls on nations to ban attempts to create "human life" through cloning. That's a revision of the old text, which called on nations to prohibit creating "human beings" through cloning.

That change is key because it gets to the heart of the dispute over cloning. Many opponents argue that an embryo is human life, while fewer see it as a human being. This sleight of hand on the wording could help everyone to agree on a treaty.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, viewed the Italian offer favorably but said a vote on the two treaty proposals was still possible.

Either way, observers said the Italian offer may be a sign that the two sides have all but given up trying to agree and are seeking a way to save face and drop the issue.

That's because the Costa Rican and Belgian documents, if passed, would seek a global treaty on cloning. The Italian offer, on the other hand, is only a declaration outlining U.N. member states' stance and would not call for a treaty.

Locusts swarm into Egypt, causing havoc

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In an echo of the biblical plagues, millions of locusts swarmed into northern Egypt on Wednesday for the first time in 50 years, prompting authorities to order emergency pesticide spraying to protect the region's important agricultural industry.

Clouds of the red insects, up to 2½ inches long, flitted about over Cairo, while others hopped around on rooftops. By evening, the skies were clear.

Christian Pantenius, program coordinator of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization office in Egypt, said the swarm was an offshoot of a serious locust infestation in West Africa that was blown by strong winds across the Sahara. He said locusts also were spotted in Crete and Lebanon.

Pantenius said the locusts were showing no sign of moving farther south along the agricultural-

ly rich Nile River valley, and he predicted the swarm most likely would head southeast toward the Red Sea coast, which is an annual locust breeding ground between November and March.

Locusts, which normally live between two and six months, eat their weight — about 0.07 ounces — in crops every day. They can travel as much as 120 miles in a day.

"People are very afraid that it may cause damage to agricultural production, but to what extent the agricultural sector could be damaged is difficult to say," Pantenius said. Agriculture Minister Ahmed el-Leithy said the locusts appeared to pose no serious threat to Egypt's crops "because the swarms are continuing to move and are not fully grown." But he said 50 pest eradication teams had been rushed out to spray pesticides in farm areas.

Farmers without pesticides set smoky fires and made loud noises with machinery in hopes of keeping locusts away from their fields.

Alitalia flights canceled due to strike

ROME — More than 170 Alitalia flights will be canceled Friday when air traffic controllers walk off their jobs for four hours, the Italian airline said.

The nationwide strike was to start at noon. Alitalia said Thursday that 78 domestic flights and 94 international flights would be canceled, while several flights would be rescheduled.

From The Associated Press

Dynasty Gems Inc.

40% off

All Dynasty 18K Gold Jewelry

22 Nov-29 Dec

Yokosuka & Atsugi

NEX - YOUR NAVY EXCHANGE

We are your "Navy Family" store!

Like it? CHARGE IT!

Porters are for illustration purposes only.

Limited to stock on hand.

U.S. dollar continues its plunge in the Pacific

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The U.S. dollar tumbled to its lowest rate in years against key Asian currencies Thursday after a top U.S. official indicated the government wouldn't intervene to halt the American currency's recent slide worldwide.

The dollar fell to a four-and-a-half-year low against the Japanese yen and a seven-year low against the South Korean won and hovered near six-year lows against the Singapore dollar.

Analysts attributed Thursday's plunge to comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow in London on Wednesday, that "no one has ever devalued their way to prosperity" but the "only way to get prosperity is to follow the marketplace."

Snow said the United States favors a strong dollar, but his comments were still interpreted as ruling out official intervention in currency markets and renewed the markets' view that President Bush's administration is happy to watch the dollar fall.

Some Asian officials have been worried the United States will start relying on a weak dollar to fight the ballooning American trade and budget deficits.

In Tokyo, the dollar fell late



A pedestrian is reflected on a digital screen flashing the quotation rate of the nose-diving dollar against the Japanese yen Thursday in Tokyo.

Thursday to 103.76 yen, its lowest level since April 2000, down 1.30 yen from late Wednesday.

On Thursday, several Japanese financial officials expressed concern about the dollar's moves, and the top government spokesman said Japan was ready to intervene as it has done in the past to prop up the dollar.

But traders now believe Japan probably won't intervene until the dollar falls below 103 yen.

"I'm concerned about foreign exchange levels and they need to be watched very closely," Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said.

Against the South Korean won, the dollar finished at 1,065.4 won, a seven-year low. It closed Wednesday's at 1,081.4 won.

Last week, the Bank of Korea said the won's gains were excessive and called for action, following a \$4 billion dollar-buying spree by the bank.

We are thoroughly monitoring to prevent speculative engagement in our currency market," said South Korea's Minister of Finance and Economy, Lee Hun-Jai.

Recovered artifacts help keep Afghan history alive

BY THOMAS H. MAUGH II

Los Angeles Times

More than 22,000 treasures from the Kabul Museum in Afghanistan, long thought to have been lost in the war against the Soviet Union and the subsequent cultural purge by the Taliban, have been located in bank vaults and other safe places where they were hidden by museum officials.

The priceless Bactrian gold collection, precious ivories, bronze statues and other artifacts of 5,000 years of history on the Orient's Silk Road — virtually all of the museum's most precious items — were preserved despite the devastation engulfing the country, archaeologists said Wednesday.

The discovery of the Bactrian gold was announced this summer, but a just-completed inventory revealed that virtually all of the museum's most precious items are intact, said Oxford University archaeologist Fredrik T. Hielt.

In the midst of the resistance against the Soviets, a team of curators in the early 1980s boxed up the most valuable pieces in the museum's collection, stashing them in various vaults around Kabul, the Afghan capital. The curators used small safes, tin boxes, steel containers and anything else they could find at hand.

They then went "dead quiet," said British archaeologist Carla Grissman, keeping their knowledge to themselves even as rumors floated widely about the destruction and looting of the museum's contents.

They kept their secrets for a quarter of a century.

"These are the real heroes of this story," said Hielt.

Hielt was brought in this spring to catalog the gold with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Geographic Society.

Now that the artifacts have been inventoried, they have all been packed up again and stored in a one-again secret location until the government can find a new home for them.

The Kabul Museum has been restored, but security there is not sufficient to protect the artifacts. Curators hope to build a state-of-the-art museum in central Kabul, but no one is sure where the money will come from.

The Kabul Museum was a small facility housed in a 1920s-era federal building about 30 minutes outside the city center. Although it was small, Hielt noted, "it is said that every piece [it had] was a masterpiece."

Because it straddles the Silk Road that camel caravans used to transport textiles from China to Europe and pottery, artworks and other materials in the opposite direction, Kabul was a prosperous city throughout much of civilization's early history.

As a result, the museum held objects from a string of civilizations that conquered or traveled through the region, including the Bactrians, Kushans, Greeks and Buddhists.

Unfortunately, the museum's neighborhood became a frontline in the fighting against the Soviets and the building was shelled into a windowless, roofless hulk. Many of the artifacts that had not been removed were blasted to shards.



A Chinese worker cleans up a toilet Wednesday at the hotel where the 2004 World Toilet Summit is being held in Beijing, China. The three-day summit is expected to attract 150 academics, sanitation experts, toilet designers and environmentalists from 19 countries as far away as the United States, Finland, Germany, Japan and Nepal.

Toilets No. 1 focus of Beijing summit

BY AUDRA ANG

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Laugh all you want, say public hygiene experts at the World Toilet Summit, but the importance of "loos" you can use is no joke.

The three-day event, which began Wednesday in Beijing, is an international commode conference. Some 150 scholars, toilet designers and environmentalists from 19 countries gathered to exchange ideas on topics such as the latest toilet technologies, lavatory management tips and the relationship between toilets and tourism development.

"People are saying 'We want good toilets!' because toilets are a basic human right and that basic human right has been neglected," said Jack Sim, founder of the World Toilet Organization, co-sponsor of the summit.

China, known for fetid public toilets that have been open trenches, is eager to show off its advances while preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Delegates to the conference are to be taken on a tour of new and renovated public toilets in Beijing.

"You can laugh at it for a short time. But after a few seconds, you should start to pay serious attention to the subject."

"You can laugh at it for a short time," said Sim, whose group is based in the hyper-clean island nation of Singapore. "But after a few seconds, you should start to pay serious attention to the subject" that affects your quality of life.

The convention is in its fourth year, with Singapore, Seoul and Taipei as previous hosts. Participants this year came from countries as far away as Finland, Japan and the United States.

Photos of showcase lavatories were also displayed at the conference, from a ladybug-shaped one in a public garden to another modeled after a grass hut in a wildlife park. Facilities with baby-changing stations, wheelchair ramps and gleaming white ceramic urinals also were featured.

"New public toilets are an important symbol to demonstrate the development of the city," said Liang Guangsheng, deputy director of Beijing's Municipal Administrative Committee.

In the past three years, Beijing has spent \$29 million on building or renovating 747 restrooms at tourist spots, according to the city government.

The toilets are sanitary, convenient and private," Yu Changjiang, director general of the city's tourism bureau said. The city also aims to make them suitable for foreigners of all ages, for the disabled, and energy and water-efficient.

The city has come up with a rating system of one to four stars for its public wash rooms, reportedly based on such criteria as granite floors, remote-sensor flushes, automatic hand-driers and piped-in music.

The capital now has 88 four-star lavatories, 161 that qualify for three stars, 312 for two and 1,100 for one. Countless others, are perhaps best not mentioned.

Maintenance is as important as construction, said Simon Tay, one of the speakers at the summit.

"It's something that China needs to think about," said Tay, chairman of Singapore's National Environment Agency, a government organization. "I hate the word luxury toilet because, really, good toilets should be an everyday common thing. It doesn't have to look like the Shangri-La toilet in order for it to be something that we can be proud of."

Jack Sim, Founder, World Toilet Organization

Super
2 Day Sale

Yokota BX Mistletoe Mayhem Weekend

Nov. 20 & 21

AAFES

**Nachtmann
Crystal
25% OFF**

**Selected
Lingerie
25% OFF**

**Selected
fragrance
gift sets
from Coty
25% OFF**

**Mens
holiday
ties
25% OFF**

**Tommy
Hilfiger
mens
underwear
25% OFF**

**Selected
mens
jackets
50% OFF**

**Totes slippers
for men
and women
10% OFF**

**IAudio MP3
Player 256MB
reg \$179
now 129.00**

**DVD LX98 DVD
Portable Player
now
150 dollars
off...**

**Laura Leigh
Intimates
25% OFF**

**Additional
25% off
all clearance
clothing and
clearance shoes**


Yokota Furniture Store
**Scratch-n-Dent sale
25% to 75% OFF
Selected items**

Happy Holidays to All from the AAFES Yokota Bakery

Be on the lookout for our Thanksgiving and Christmas cakes at your nearest shoppette. Let us do your baking for you. Order your special holiday cakes early! Don't forget to order your pumpkin, apple and pecan pies through your nearest shoppette Bldg 4085 Phone #225-3752

Open Thanksgiving Day 1000-1600 Special One Day Sales

Saturday Only!

**Before Thanksgiving
November
20th**

**Save \$150
\$749
Reg \$899**



LG Electronics
20" multi-system LCD TV

Get a coupon good for
10% off any one item
up to \$500

**Super
Holiday
Savings!**
10% off
any one item
up to \$500
Maximum value \$50

**You Save
an average of
21.89%
when you shop
at AAFES!**



Look for these tags for instant savings on items throughout the store!

...and more!

AAFES
aafes.com...open all the time!



Limited quantities. Limited to stock on hand. No adjustments.



**We save you money...
everyday!**

IN THE STATES

Celebration marks opening of Clinton library

BY DAVID HAMMER
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Top Clinton administration officials, both Presidents Bush, rock stars and ordinary admirers of Bill Clinton turned out Thursday to pay homage to "a man of compassion" at the opening of the Clinton Presidential Center.

An estimated 30,000 guests were on hand for the dedication of the \$165 million glass-and-steel home of artifacts and documents gathered during Clinton's eight years in the White House.

Clinton, President Bush, and former presidents George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter took the stage together while the Air Force Concert Band played "Hail to the Chief." Their wives had arrived on the stage moments earlier, and all held their own umbrellas against steady rain.

The nation's 42nd president told the crowd, "I believe the job of a president is to understand and explain the time in which he serves, to set forth a vision of where we need to go and a strategy of how we get there, and then to pursue it with all his mind and heart."

He paid tribute to the people of Arkansas, his family, his predecessors and his colleagues, and he said he tried to combine the best of conservatism, maintaining what is worth keeping, and progressivism, discarding what is not.

He said he was disappointed by the divisions revealed in the just-ended presidential campaign, wondering if he was the only American who liked both candidates.

"We all do better when we work together," he said. "Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more."



From left, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former President Jimmy Carter, former first lady Barbara Bush, former President George H. W. Bush, first lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, Chelsea Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton watch from under umbrellas at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.

In his remarks, Carter admired Clinton for his "insight, wisdom and determination."

"He was a leader who could inspire other people to go beyond what they thought were their own limits in accomplishing great goals," Carter said.

Clinton, still recovering from his September cardiac surgery, often chuckled and slapped his thigh during the others' re-

marks. He sported a new hairstyle, brushed flat over his forehead instead of sweeping back.

Clinton's library collection consists of more than 80 million presidential items, and Clinton has promised to give scholars early access to previously private policy advice and other documents he isn't required to release until 2006.

What to see there...

The Associated Press

Visitors to the Clinton presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., should allow at least two hours for a visit, according to library director David Alsbrook. For their \$7 admission fee, they see:

■ A presidential timeline that highlights Clinton's eight years in office. The first panel features a quote from Clinton's first inaugural address: "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

■ Fourteen alcoves that highlight significant themes from Clinton's presidency. One discusses "The Fight For Power," and places Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky with the president's policy battles with the GOP.

■ Extended treatment of Clinton's peace efforts in Northern Ireland, the Balkans and the Middle East, and his efforts to mend race relations in America.

■ Scores of gifts Clinton received in his world travels. The cultural significance of many artifacts, many with unique craftsmanship, would make them suitable for any museum, not necessarily one dedicated to Clinton's presidency.

■ A replica of the Oval Office, down to the collection of military medals Clinton gathered during visits to bases and foreign world leaders.

Alsbrook says visitors who want to take in everything should allow four hours.

Bush braves rain to honor former foe

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — During the dedication of the Clinton Presidential Center, in a cold, dreaching rain, President Bush made small talk under umbrellas with former President Clinton after praising the one-time political foe he once scorned as a man who diminished the honor and dignity of the Oval Office.

Bush, the 43rd president, described Clinton, the 42nd, as "an able and energetic American," a leader who showed the world "his brilliance and his mastery of detail, his persuasive power and his persistence."

The elder Bush, driven from the White House by Clinton in 1992, called his successor "one of the most gifted American politi-

cal figures in modern times. Trust me, I learned this the hard way."

His son made clear that the Bush family does not hold a grudge against Clinton.

"During his presidency, Bill Clinton seized important opportunities on issues from welfare to free trade," the president said. "He was a tireless champion of peace in the Middle East. He used American power in the Balkans to confront aggression and halt ethnic cleansing."

"And in all his actions and decisions, the American people sensed a deep empathy for the poor and the powerless," Bush said.

The wives of the four presidents walked out to the stage, each with an umbrella. Their hus-

bands followed with no umbrellas.

As the men took their places, the women hurried to try to cover them. Bush first took refuge under Chelsea Clinton's umbrella, posing for pictures with his arm around her, then settled on pairing with his wife. Barbara Bush eventually prevailed in convincing her apparently reluctant husband, the elder Bush, to come under her umbrella as well.

Clinton congratulated Bush on his re-election, but could not help offering some advice. Recalling that his failure to see a lasting Middle East peace accord was the "biggest disappointment" of his White House tenure, Clinton wished the president "Godspeed" in his own efforts on that front.

"I hope you get to cross over to the promised land of Middle East peace," Clinton said.



Former President Bill Clinton, left, and President Bush talk at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.

Officials say possible new case of mad cow found

BY JOHN HEILPRIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A second case of mad cow disease may have turned up in the United States but the suspect meat has not entered the food chain, Agriculture Department officials said Thursday.

The officials released few details and refused to say where the possibly diseased animal was found. They said it would be four

to seven days before more could be confirmed, a delay that livestock industry representatives said would cause turmoil in the beef market.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous system. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The possible case comes 11

months after the United States had its first case of mad cow disease. Japan and other countries are still maintaining bans against U.S. beef as the result of the earlier case.

Suspicions about another case of the disease came because of an inconclusive test result, officials said.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," said Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the USDA's Ani-

mal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

She said the inconclusive results "are a normal component of screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive so they will detect any sample that could possibly be positive."

"It is important to note that this animal did not enter the food or feed chain," Morgan said. "USDA remains confident in the safety of the U.S. beef supply. Our ban on specified risk materials from the

human food chain provides the protection to public health, should another case of BSE ever be detected in the United States."

Morgan said initial efforts had begun to trace back the animal from where it was tested to the farm from which it originated.

In the only confirmed U.S. case, a Canadian-born Holstein was found to have been infected, but just that one case caused Japan and more than three dozen other countries to refuse U.S. beef.

Reviewer: Public 'defenseless' against FDA-approved drugs

BY DIEDTRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The American public is "virtually defenseless" if another medication such as Vioxx proves to be unsafe, a U.S. government drug safety reviewer told a congressional committee Thursday.

"I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx," said David Graham, who warned that the arthritis drug had been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

He told the Senate Finance Committee that there were at least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether they should remain there. He cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-cholesterol drug Crestor, the pain reliever Bextra, and the asthma drug Serevent.

Vioxx's maker, Merck and Co., pulled the drug from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

Raymond V. Gilmartin, the company president, said in prepared testimony that Merck acted within four days of learning about the risk.

"Given the availability of alternative therapies and the questions raised by the data withdrawing Vioxx was consistent with an ethic that has driven Merck actions and decisions for more than 100 years," he said.

Gilmartin also said the company was surprised by the cardiovascular risk because it differed from past clinical trials.

The Food and Drug Administration has defended its actions regarding Vioxx. In a statement issued late Wednesday, the agency cited its "well-documented and long-standing commitment to openness and transparency in its review of marketed drugs."

However, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, who chaired the hearing, suggested that an independent board of drug safety might be needed to ensure the safety of medications after they're approved for the market.

"Consumers should not have to second-guess the safety of what's in their medicine cabinet," he said.

Graham told the committee that research indicated that Vioxx caused up to 160,000 heart attacks and strokes.

"If we were talking about Florida or Pennsylvania, 1 percent of the entire state population would have been affected," he said.

"I'm sorry to say Sen. Grassley, but 67 percent of the citizens of Des Moines would be affected and, what's worse — the entire population of every other city in the state of Iowa."

Graham said his research helped to coax the FDA to withdraw a number of drugs including Fen-phen, a weight loss drug, Lotronex, Baycol and Rezulin.

"During my career I have recommended the market withdrawal of 12 drugs," he said. "Only two of these remain on the market today."

Critics question FDA reaction to flu vaccine crisis

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An influential Republican lawmaker joined Democratic critics Thursday in asking whether the Food and Drug Administration reacted slowly to problems with U.S. flu vaccine.

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said he wants to know from the prospect of a vaccine shortage involving Chiron Corp., the maker of 50 million doses of tainted vaccine, became clear to the Bush administration.

"Of particular concern is the question of whether Chiron and/or the U.S. government had sufficient notice from available evidence to take additional steps to safeguard against this sudden shortage," Barton said in letters also signed by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., the committee's senior Democrat. The letters were sent Thursday to Chiron, the FDA and the Department of Health and Human Services, its parent agency.

Barton and Dingell said earlier inquiries about the FDA's role as chief protector of the U.S. drug supply revealed "flaws in the FDA's ability to track and inspect foreign firms that send drug products to the U.S."

FDA said it was taken by surprise when the U.S. supply of flu vaccine was cut in half in October. Democratic lawmakers said the agency should have seen it coming.

Documents provided by the FDA to a congressional committee show that inspectors uncovered contamination and unsanitary conditions at Chiron's vaccine manufacturing plant in Liverpool in 2003. Yet the agency did not re-inspect the facility until

after similar problems surfaced last month.

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said the 2003 problems and those that tainted this year's vaccine were unrelated. "The proof of that is that the 2003 vaccine production was completed on schedule and none of it was condemned," Crawford told the House Government Reform Committee at a hearing Wednesday.

FDA inspectors who visited the Liverpool plant in June 2003 found records of bacteria concentrations a thousand times the expected level, said a report distributed by committee Democrats.

The preliminary inspection report from last month indicates in three places that deficiencies found in 2003 had not been corrected.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said Crawford's assertion was part of a "pattern of misleading statements." The FDA might have averted or at least mitigated the vaccine shortage if it had been vigilant, Waxman said.

Instead, Waxman said, the FDA rejected its own inspectors' recommendations for a formal warning to Chiron and asked the company to correct problems voluntarily.

Even after Chiron indicated Aug. 25 that several million doses of vaccine had been contaminated, Waxman said, the agency remained passive, relying on company conference calls with the company rather than a new inspection.

U.S. officials continued to assure the public that there would be sufficient vaccine as recently as two weeks before they learned that was not the case.

"My criticism is that the FDA didn't do enough to stay on top of this," he said in one of several tense exchanges with Crawford.

STUDY with your On or Off



Contact us today at...

et@ucsc-extension.edu for all the details on how to receive a \$50 discount per course good through November 30, 2004.

Visit www.ucsc-extension.edu or call (888) 530-0660 for a catalog.

FULLY ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS from Silicon Valley's largest provider of professional technology training—University of California Extension, Santa Cruz.

You can build skills in these high-demand areas of engineering and technologies wherever you are. Use your newly acquired skills on the job now or in a future career.

Internet Programming and Technologies
Network Engineering and Management
Object-Oriented Programming Using Java
Router Configuration and Management
Software Engineering and Management
Web and Internet Systems Engineering

UC Extension
in Silicon Valley

Its Never to Late to Join the Boy Scouts!

The Far East Council has a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop on every major base in Japan and Korea. Scouting in the Far East Council brings a touch of the states to your son.

Join anytime!

For more information on Scouting go to:
www.joincubscouting.org for boys in grades 1-5
www.scoutzone.org for boys age 11 to 17
www.fareastbsa.org

Contact our office near you
Japan: 263-7497 Okinawa: 645-9236 Korea: 738-4860
Support your Local Boy Scout Council - CFC #0361

HITACHI
Inspire the Next¹

BRIGHT!
2,000 ANSI
lumens



**Bring big screen movie magic to
any room in your home**

100"
SCREEN

ONLY 119"

CP-S318WT

Wide Angle Lens

For example, provides a large 100" screen display at a projection distance of only 119". You can display images about twice as big as ordinary projectors.

Full Connectivity

Comes with 2 RGB inputs so you can connect 2 PCs at one time and easily switchover 3 video inputs

* HDTV: 750p (720p), 1125i (1080i/1035i);
SDTV: 525i (480i), 625i (575i)

Your new Hitachi CP-S318WT LCD projector comes with these great features:

- **"My Screen"**
Capture any desired image from a PC or video source and customize it as a selected still image for blank screen or initial screen use
- **Whisper mode lowers fan noise to only 33dB**
- **Easy and Flexible Keystone Adjustment**
Vertical and horizontal keystone correction allows greater flexibility for use in restricted spaces. The projector itself has a keystone adjustment button for easy operation
- **HDTV/SDTV, PAL, NTSC Compatible**
- **Resolution: 800 x 600 color pixels**
- **S-video, composite video, component video and audio inputs**
- **Dual/auto voltage**
- **4x Partial magnification**
- **Power supply: AC100-240V, Auto conversion**
- **1 speaker**
- **Wireless remote control**
- **Carrying case**
And more!

Nov 26 - Dec 2 Only

Reg. \$1,399

SAVE \$200

\$1,199

AFFES
aafes.com...open all the time!



Enjoy beautiful images
and excellent functionality



HITACHI
Inspire the Next



DVDCAM
DZ-MV550A

- 1/4" CCD
- NTSC 680k/moving: 340k, still:340k pixels
- 2.5" Color LCD monitor
- 0.44" Color view finder
- DVD video and SD/MMC Memory card recording
- (XTRA:3-10Mbps/FINE:6Mbps/STD:3Mbps); JPEG (640x480,DPOF compat)
- AV In/output

OPTICAL ZOOM 18x

- External microphone jack
- PC connecting terminal USB 2.0 (480Mbps)
- 57mm wide
- And more!

16:9 recording mode feature is not available with DZ-MV550A

\$689

DVDCAM

DZ-MV580A

- 1/4" CCD
- NTSC 1.02M/moving: 400k, still:960k pixels
- 2.5" Color LCD monitor
- 0.44" Color view finder
- DVD video and SD/MMC Memory card recording
- (XTRA:3-10Mbps/FINE:6Mbps/STD:3Mbps); JPEG (1280x960,DPOF compat)
- AV In/output
- External microphone jack
- PC connecting terminal USB 2.0(480Mbps)
- 60mm wide
- And more!

16:9 recording mode on DVD-RAM Disc

16x9
(Wide)



Proper
wide
mode
No
extension
(no loss
of picture
quality)

4x3
(Normal)

Optical zoom 18x feature is not available with DZ-MV580A

\$789



Goodbye video tapes!

Hitachi's DVDCAM is leading the revolution in home movies

Record right away. Watch right away. Edit right away.

With no tapes to rewind or forward, you can record and playback instantly! The DVDCAM comes with features that let you edit your movie immediately after you record it!

Easy use SD memory card

Just record onto the SD memory card and take it to a PC, printer and TV with SD memory card capability for easy viewing and printing

Fast Upload & Download

Upload and download to your PC quickly and easily with USB 2.0 Hi Speed (480Mbps)



DVD-Rs and DVD-RAMs also available at same AAFES stores

AAFES
aafes.com...open all the time!

Consumer
Electronics
on the
Power Zone
2004

Products not available in Guam.



1 year later, gays enjoy married life

BY JENNIFER PETER

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Since the highest court in Massachusetts declared that the state constitution guarantees gays the right to marry, it's the intangible joys — not the material benefits — that newlyweds say they savor.

While marriage entitles gay couples to state financial protections and familial rights, many instead talk about a feeling of acceptance.

"I've been called 'Mrs.,' said Gail Leondar-Wright, who married Betsy, her partner of 13 years, on May 23. "None of us ever thought we would be called a 'Mrs.'"

Rod and Lindel Hart revel in the simple act of checking off the "married" box on applications, even on federal forms that do not recognize their union.

"I will never, ever check the 'single' box again," said Rod, 31, of Greenfield.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made the state the first to sanction same-sex marriages a year ago Thursday, and the aftershocks are evident in the daily lives of the thousands of couples who took vows they once didn't believe possible.

The effects also were evident after this year's elections, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, joining six others that had done so earlier. President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

Massachusetts also is working on a new ban that would conform



Tanya McCloskey, left, and Marsha Kadish of Malden, Mass., were one of the first gay couples to legally wed in the United States. It was a year ago Thursday that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution guaranteed same-sex couples the right to marry.

Paper anniversary

It's been one year since the Massachusetts high court ruled that gays have the right to marry in the state.

Since the decision took effect, nearly 3,000 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

Here comes the pride: While it entitles them to rights and protections, many gay married couples emphasize a feeling of acceptance.

Can it last? Massachusetts lawmakers have a new gay-marriage ban in the works that would conform with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions. It won lawmakers' approval this year, but must be approved in a consecutive session before it's submitted to voters in 2006.

— The Associated Press

with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions.

According to an Associated Press review of wedding certificates publicly recorded with the state since May 17, when the court decision took effect, at least 2,980 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

"It feels good that there's somewhere in the United States where it's not a big deal," said Brenda Henson, 59, of Centerville, Miss., who married Wanda, her partner of 20 years, earlier this year in Massachusetts.

"They welcomed us with open arms."

Report: 9/11 victim payouts inequitable

BY CHRISTOPHER LEE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The federal compensation for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks could have been distributed more fairly and efficiently if equal payouts had been given to all families instead of basing awards on factors such as the victim's age and potential lost income, according to the fund's administrator.

Kenneth Feinberg, special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, said that the varying sizes of individual awards, required by Congress, led to "finger-pointing" among victims and a sense that officials were placing a higher value on some lives than on others. It also greatly complicated the task of calculating compensation for those who suffered losses after terrorists slammed airplanes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania, he said.

"I had the firefighter's widow saying to me, 'Mr. Feinberg, why am I getting a million dollars less than the stockbroker's husband, who was pushing a pencil on the 10th floor and my husband died a hero? I must be missing something,'" Feinberg said in an interview Tuesday.

Feinberg, who released his final report Wednesday, stressed that he believes the overall program was a great success. His sentiments about uniform, or "flat," awards are personal observations, he said, not official conclusions. He also noted that the fairness and feasibility of any flat-award system would depend on the size of the awards and the extent to which accepting the compensation restricts the recipient's right to sue in court.

"I think a flat system is better, but you cannot, I think, create a

fair and equitable flat-payment system unless you address somehow the questions of how much (the payment is) and are you curtailing the right to litigate?" Feinberg said in an interview. "If the flat payment is too small, you'll litigate."

Congress established the fund shortly after the attacks as part of legislation that provided billions of dollars to struggling airlines and protected the industry from potentially crippling lawsuits. People who sought compensation from the fund were required to waive their right to sue but in return received money sooner and with greater certainty than they would have through legal action.

John Coffee, a professor at Columbia Law School, said a flat-award system would have prompted more victims to sue, creating more delays, and ultimately, leaving some deserving people with nothing. Tailored awards have more appeal, he said.

"I don't know why someone who has got six children and would have had 40 more years in which to earn money to support them, why that person should get the same award as someone who is 72 and was already retired," Coffee said. "I do see why some individualization of the award to each victim's circumstances is necessary if the system is going to be perceived as equitable and just."

The fund paid out its first claim on Aug. 22, 2002, and its final payment is expected in the next few weeks. In all, more than \$7 billion went to the survivors of 2,880 people who were killed and to 2,680 people who were injured in the attacks or the rescue efforts that followed, according to the report.

Families of the people killed collected awards averaging more than \$2 million, and the injured drew payouts averaging almost \$400,000.

Living Offbase? Save \$\$ with our New Low Rates!

*Credit for new Customers based on equivalent rate to US Existing Customers. Please Call E-Mail for New Rate Plan



From OFFBASE From OFFBASE Calling via DSN

*Ask for your FREE Personal 800 Number in The US. Our Friends and Family to call you only, at your expense, and at low US rates.

*Ask for a FREE ONECARD Calling Card, which can be used in over 50 countries and, where permitted, over the DSN network, and save up to 80% over AT&T.

Cellphone calls at higher rate.

- American Quality since 1994!
- Fast, Easy Sign Up Anytime!
- Credit Card/US Bank Debit!
- Use with Cellular Phones!!!
- Great Customer Service 24/7!

For more info or secure sign up:

www.militel.net

CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS

Japan 00-531-13-0436

S.Korea 00-308-14-0025

E-mail info@militel.net

SUBSCRIBER APPRECIATION COUPON



Just hand this form to your carrier before Dec. 10, 2004 to enjoy immediate savings.

Name _____ E-mail _____

Delivery Address _____

Billing Address _____

Base Phone(H) _____ Phone(W) _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Check one)

3 Month Option/\$45.75 (Save \$3.00)

6 Month Option/\$85.50 (Save \$12.00)

12 Month Option/\$156.00 (Save \$39.00)

Your carrier is an independent business person. Please reward good service.

Off-base delivery charges may apply.

DoD and SOFA home delivery only.

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
circulation@pstpsires.com

PREPAY
SAVE UP TO
\$ _____
Per Year

Tip \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Signature _____

Study: Running key to human evolution

BY BRYN NELSON

Newspaper

As sprinters, even elite human athletes would be left in the dust by galloping horses, greyhounds and pronghorn antelopes. Our largely overlooked success as endurance runners, however, may be key to our early anatomical evolution, according to a new review of past research.

"We're very odd runners," said Daniel Lieberman, one of the study's co-authors and a biological anthropologist at Harvard University. "But we do it really well. We're actually designed to do it."

The ability to run marathons makes us unique among primates and can render other animals mere also-rans, according to evidence gathered by Lieberman and University of Utah biologist Dennis Bramble that will be published Thursday in the journal *Nature*.

A wide range of features in the human body, including our long Achilles tendons, large joints, long legs, narrow waist, balanced head and ample buttocks all have given us a leg up on the competition.

Fossil evidence suggests these assets may have arisen as early as 2 million years ago, perhaps allowing our early *Homo habilis* or *Homo erectus* ancestors to reach food before competitors such as hyenas, or to chase down prey until it dropped from exhaustion.

This added source of protein and fat, Lieberman and others speculate, might have provided the energy for yet more anatomical changes: larger brains, smaller guts and bigger brains.

The mechanics of running are akin to the flexing and rebounding of springs, a motion dependent on tendons in our legs and feet. Chief among these spring-like tendons is the Achilles, more developed in humans than in any other primate.

"There's no reason to have those springs if you're not a runner," he said. "Just the Achilles tendon alone is unquestionable evidence for running."

In the body's lower half, large joints act as shock absorbers to cushion impact when a runner's heel hits ground. And our, um, rather large rear ends? "It's one of our most distinctive characteristics," Lieberman said. "If you look at a chimp, it's got a tiny rear end."

As Stony Brook University anatomical specialist William Jurgens put it, "It's no coincidence that in chimpanzees, the same muscle is called *gluteus superficialis*, and in humans, it's called *gluteus maximus*."

Several studies suggest human runners compare favorably to animals such as hyenas, horses and hunting dogs in maintaining a reasonable speed over long distances.

With existing fossil evidence, Lieberman and Bramble also compiled more than two dozen anatomical features that may have arrived as early as 2 million years ago to buttress endurance running.

The available evidence should comfort less-than-fleet-footed marathoners with the knowledge that they likely beat any chimp or hyena.

Radiocarbon dating raises questions

BY AMY GEIER EDGAR

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — A leading archaeologist says he has discovered what could be sooty evidence that humans lived in North America tens of thousands of years earlier than is commonly believed.

University of South Carolina archaeologist Al Goodyear said Wednesday he has uncovered a layer of charcoal from a possible hearth or fire pit at a site near the Savannah River.

Samples from the layer have been laboratory-dated to more than 50,000 years old. Yet Goodyear stopped short of declaring it proof of the continent's earliest human occupation.

"It does look like a hearth," he said, "and the material that was dated has been burned."

Since the 1960s, anthropologists have generally accepted that hunters migrated to North America about 13,000 years ago over a land bridge into Alaska following the retreat of Ice Age glaciers.

But other sites, including the Topper site in South Carolina, have yielded rough stone tools and other artifacts suggesting that humans lived in North America thousands of years earlier when the climate was much colder. While there is no ironclad proof that an older culture existed, scientists are increasingly open to the idea that humans arrived from many other directions besides the northwest, perhaps even sailing across oceans.

But a 50,000-year-old fire pit would scorch the prevailing occupation theory.

Goodyear's evidence was examined by other scientists, who performed radiocarbon tests on samples to determine their age.

However, he made his initial



University of South Carolina archaeologist Al Goodyear holds a "chisel-like" tool Wednesday which was found at the Topper dig site in Allendale County, S.C.

case for the fire pit Wednesday in a news conference, rather than publishing the data in a scientific journal edited by other researchers.

Goodyear, who has worked the Topper site since 1981, discovered the charcoal layer in May.

Thomas Stafford, director of Stafford Laboratories in Boulder, Colorado, then took samples of the substance for tests at the University of California at Irvine.

The results showed that wood varieties — oak, pine, red cherry and buckeye — had been burned in a low-temperature fire at least 50,000 years ago, he said.

Stafford described the burnt layer as measuring 2 or 3 inches thick and about 2 feet wide. Rather than a simple black band in the soil, Stafford said the layer had the "shape of a very shallow plate."

He said it could have been the result of a fire tended by humans,

or the ashes could have been deposited by wind, rain or flooding.

Other researchers were more skeptical of Goodyear's discovery, noting that previous claims of very old occupation at other sites have never been verified.

"We still need to be cautious," said Vanderbilt University anthropologist Tom Dillehay. "I would not yet rewrite the books."

The find is very significant and shows that there is much we don't understand and can't easily reject or accept.

Other scientists were blunter.

"I think it's a 50,000-year-old geologic deposit," said University of Texas archaeologist Mike Collins. "It has almost nothing to do with the story of the peopling of North America."

Modern humans are believed to have emerged from Africa 100,000 years ago and spread around the world, elbowing out less capable human cousins like *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals.

Worries about hospital mistakes increasing, survey finds

BY CECI CONNOLLY

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Americans are increasingly worried about dangerous — even deadly — mistakes in hospitals, but an overwhelming majority say the problem lies in easy-to-read, published safety report cards, not more medical lawsuits, a national survey released Wednesday found.

Five years after the Institute of Medicine issued a landmark report on widespread, preventable deaths in U.S. hospitals, the new poll shows confidence in the healthcare system has declined and pressure to reform it has grown.

More than half of 2,000 adults surveyed say they are dissatisfied with the quality of health care, up from 44 percent in 2000. At the same time, 92 percent said reporting of medical errors should be mandatory, according to the poll by the Kaiser Family

Foundation, the Harvard School of Public Health and the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Despite enormous frustration, few people indicated a desire to use the courts as recourse, calling into question policymakers' renewed interest in malpractice legislation, said Harvard pollster Robert Blendon.

"They do not view the malpractice system as the way to resolve these problems," he said. "They would like the medical errors reported by a public agency, have the agency release it and then have it printed in some kind of Consumer Reports, and then they can go somewhere else" for care.

About one-third of those surveyed said either they or a family member had experienced a

More than half of 2,000 adults surveyed say they are dissatisfied with the quality of health care, up from 44 percent in 2000.

medical error, yet only 11 percent of them said they had sued for malpractice. By much larger margins, respondents favored remedies such as suspending the license of a doctor or nurse who makes medical errors.

In the 1999 report "To Err Is Human," the IOM estimated that between 44,000 and 98,000 people die in hospitals each year because of preventable mistakes. The errors range from operating on a wrong limb to spreading infection with dirty hands. Hospital-based errors are the eighth leading cause of death in the U.S., claiming more lives than AIDS, automobile accidents or breast cancer.

"Unfortunately, despite five years of focused attention, people do not seem to feel safer," the researchers wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine. "In fact, 40 percent believe that the quality of health care has gotten worse in the past five years."

Donald Berwick, president of the Massachusetts-based Institute for Healthcare Improvement, said it is impossible to say whether progress has been made because there are no universal standards.

"Impressively, substantial progress has been made on awareness," he said. Yet "most hospitals in this country do not have improvement of safety in their strategic agenda."

One major stumbling block is a dispute over whether hospital errors should be publicly released.

"Public reporting is not the answer" because it could create a climate of fear, said Don Nielsen, senior vice president for quality leadership at the American Hospital Association. Physicians want "definitive, useful, confidential reporting."

But Carolyn Clancy, director of the federal agency devoted to improving medical care, countered. "Telling a patient about a medical error and what will be done in the future to prevent it should be the rule, not the exception."

Safety improvements can come in low-tech and high-tech changes, said Elliot Sussman, president of Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network in Pennsylvania. His hospital installed a \$5 million computer system for ordering prescriptions and tracking patient care and it placed hand sanitizer dispensers in every room, reducing the rates of infection to far below the national average, he said.

Magazine 'has-beens'

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — Mad magazine is declaring that Jason West's 15 minutes of fame are over.

The New Palz mayor who's been in the headlines repeatedly since marrying more than two dozen gay couples in February is included in Mad's December issue, featuring the "latest batch of has-beens."

West joins the likes of Scott Peterson's former mistress Amber Frey and Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Smarty Jones.

"I'm glad he heard about it," West said. "If my celebrityhood is over, that means I can get back to my real life."

Math skills questioned

WASHINGTON — The national test of student math skills is filled with easy questions, raising doubts about recent gains in achievement tests, a study contends.

On the eighth-grade version of the test, almost 40 percent of the questions address skills taught in first or second grade, according to the report by Tom Loveless, director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at The Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

The test for fourth-graders also has "false rigor," Loveless says. More than 40 percent of the questions gauge first and second grade skills, two levels below the students tested.

The central fault, Loveless contends, is that too many problem-solving questions rely on whole numbers, with too few challenges involving fractions, decimals and percentages. Such instruction sets students up for trouble in more advanced high school classes and in daily life, where tasks such as shopping and measuring rarely involve neat, round numbers, he said.

Calif. housing costs

SACRAMENTO, California — A fourth of all Californians are thinking about moving — either out of state or just to another town — to bring down their housing costs, a new survey shows.

High rents and rising home prices have residents, particularly younger ones, rethinking the value of the mountain views and ocean shores they say they treasure. Of the respondents under 35, for example, nearly half say they might relocate to somewhere cheaper.

The study, released Thursday by the Public Policy Institute of California, found that even many homeowners now see little upside to rising prices that have greatly inflated their property values, with many believing they couldn't afford to buy another house in their own neighborhoods. Sixty percent of the respondents worry their children won't be able to buy homes in their part of the state.

From The Associated Press

Lawmakers debate \$800B U.S. debt-limit increase

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats and Republicans clashed over deficits and tax cuts Thursday as Congress moved toward sending President Bush an \$800 billion boost in the government's debt limit.

The bill would increase the debt ceiling from its current \$7.38 trillion, marking the third massive increase since Bush took office in 2001. The government reached the cap last month, paying its bills since with investments from a civil service retirement account, which it plans to repay.

The Senate approved the legislation Wednesday by a near party-line 52-44 vote. With no alternative but an unprecedented federal default, the House debated the bill Thursday and planned an evening vote.

Democrats were ready to oppose the measure en masse, saying it should have been accompanied by a requirement that tax cuts or new spending be paid for with budget savings. They blamed Bush's tax cuts for the re-

lentless increase in government debt, a trend analysts expect to continue indefinitely, and noted that Republicans delayed the vote until after the Nov. 2 elections.

"That didn't take long," D-Mass Rep. James M. McGovern said.

"On just the third legislative day after the election, we are yet again confronting the need to raise the nation's debt limit."

Republicans accused Democrats of playing politics with the issue. They blamed the recession for the red ink and said failure to increase the debt limit would cause default, higher interest rates and an inability of the government to pay its liabilities.

"We can demagogue it. We can keep putting on all sorts of measures to feel good or draw political lines ... But the reality is, we keep screwing around with this thing, we're going to shut the government down," said Rep. Thomas Reynolds, R-N.Y.

The debate came as lawmakers moved toward finishing their work for the year and ending what they hope will be an abbreviated lame-duck session. Hearing

the remaining business is a compromise \$388 billion spending package financing most domestic programs.

That overdue measure, which House-Senate bargainers hope to complete by Friday, curbs the recent growth of funds for biomedical research and education. It cuts Bush priorities, including a nuclear waste repository in Nevada, a hydrogen fuel initiative and aid to countries embracing open-market and democratic reforms.

His borrowing powers constrained for now, the Treasury Department on Thursday indefinitely delayed announcing details of government security auctions scheduled for next week. The department did not say if the actual auctions of 13- and 26-week bills and two-year notes would be delayed.

Completion of the debt limit measure would raise the government's borrowing limit to \$8.18 trillion. That is \$2.3 trillion higher than the limit Bush became president, and more than eight times the debt President Reagan faced when he took office in 1981.

Recount ordered in very tight Washington governor's race

BY REBECCA COOK

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Never in Washington state has a governor's race been so close.

Only 261 votes separated the two candidates after a painstaking tally that triggered an automatic recount, required whenever the margin of victory is less than 2,000 ballots.

For the time being, Republican Dino Rossi is out in front of Democrat Christine Gregoire. They should know by next Wednesday — so says Secretary of State Sam Reed — who will replace outgoing Democratic Gov. Gary Locke.

A statewide recount has never reversed the outcome of an election, but Reed isn't saying that won't happen after the 2.8 million ballots are tallied — again.

"We really aren't going to know before we do this recount what the governor is going to be," Reed, a Republican who will oversee the recount, said Wednesday.

At his Bellevue campaign headquarters, Rossi told supporters he hopes to take his family on vacation during the recount, "somewhere quieter than here." He went on to thank his wife, four children, brothers, sisters and cousins. "I've got a lot of relatives," the state senator joked, "probably about 261."

Gregoire, the state attorney general, reassured cheering backers in Seattle that the election isn't over.

"We're going to make sure, in this recount, every single vote counts," Gregoire vowed. "This is not about Republican or Democrat, Libertarian or Independent, this is about all of us as Washingtonians, standing up, casting our ballots."

The breathtaking closeness was reflected in

Wednesday's horse race. Rossi began the day 19 votes ahead, but King County's 4 p.m. report gave Gregoire a 39-vote lead. Gregoire's lead thinned as the sun set. At 5:14 p.m., Rossi went ahead by four votes. At 5:59, Gregoire took the lead by 13 votes. Finally, at 6:33 p.m., Benton County put Rossi ahead by 261 votes.

Washington leans Democrat and has not elected a Republican governor since 1980. Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry won the state with 53 percent of the vote; the current governor, Locke, easily defeated Republican opponents to serve two terms; and Democrats control the Legislature.

Gregoire, 57, looked like the Democrats' Wonder Woman. Polished and popular, Gregoire won national recognition as lead negotiator of the 1997 tobacco settlement, in which major tobacco companies agreed to pay \$206 billion to 46 states. But after a bruising primary, her campaign struggled to find a message that connected with voters.

Rossi, on the other hand, wasn't the GOP's first choice by a long shot. Republicans tried to recruit three other prospects.

And his promise of a fresh start in state government caught on with voters.

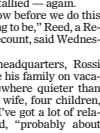
Finally, it was time to vote. The tallying stretched over two weeks as mail ballots trickled in from voters. Only Washington and neighboring Alaska allow voters to mail ballots on Election Day.

As political juncos across the country recovered from their presidential election withdrawal, they turned to the Washington governor's race for entertainment.

"It's fun, it's exciting," said Joe Arko, a retired doctor in Plano, Texas, who has followed the Washington election religiously on the Internet. "It's like a two-week playoff series. But it's a lot more important than a ball game."



Rossi



Gregoire

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH A Family Church for Your Family

Serving the Camp Zama, NAF Atsugi, Sagami Depot, NSF Kamiseya and Sagahinohara Housing Area.
Church Phone Number 046-298-3933
www.lighthousebaptistchurch.info

Service Times

Sunday School
Morning Worship
Sunday Evening
Wednesday
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
Patch and Peewee Prayer Club
Proteas
Ladies Bible Studies Monthly
Men's Prayer Breakfast Monthly
Nursery Provided for every service

We at Lighthouse Baptist Church have a strong commitment to serving our military community through many diverse ministries. We invite you to join us and share in the excitement of worshipping a true and living God.
Dr. C.L. Callahan, Pastor john316@iea.att.jp

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語もありません YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

REACHING THE MILITARY AND JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Yokota Christian Academy M-F	
Sunday	
Early Service	0830
Sunday School	1000
Morning Service	1100
Evening Service	1800
Tuesday	
Faith Bible Institute	1830
Wednesday	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830
Thursday	
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900
Patch & Peewee Clubs	1900
Friday	
Awana Club	1900
Monthly	
Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
• Nov. 14th New Member's Reception	
• Nov. 19th YCA Thanksgiving Dinner	
• Nov. 23rd YBC ANNUAL FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER	

0425-52-7254

www.yokotabaptistchurch.org



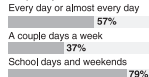
At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

A busy life for kids

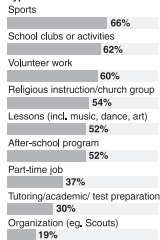
About 80 percent of middle and high school students participate in organized activities after school and on weekends, and most have something scheduled nearly every day.

Middle and high school student participation in organized activities outside school hours

Frequency



Types of activities



June 2004 telephone interviews with 609 students in grades 6 through 12, margin of error 4 percentage points

SOURCE: Public Agenda AP

Study: Kids making most of free time

BY BEN FELLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a life on the go, with activities after the day's work and into the weekend. Good thing they have the energy of kids.

From sports to music to church, out-of-school activities are a big part of life for middle and high school students, a study finds.

About 80 percent of these students participate in organized activities after school and on weekends, and most of them have something scheduled nearly every day. Students say they value filling their free time with interesting things, even if takes a parental nudge to get them started.

Sports are the most popular activities, followed by anything in the category of art, music or dance, and then academics, said the study by Public Agenda, a non-partisan public opinion organization.

Three out of four students say their day-to-day schedule during the school year is just about right, not too hectic.

And almost nine in 10 students agree they need to be pushed by parents into things that are good for them, even if they might complain.

The message to parents is, "Most kids are thriving from



Cerenity Miller, 12, works on a PowerPoint presentation for Adventure Central, a 4-H after-school program, Monday in Dayton, Ohio. Miller helps plan programs and work with younger students at the center.

out-of-school activities, and it's really worth your time — and maybe a little nagging — to get kids involved," said Ruth Wood, president of Public Agenda.

Cerenity Miller's after-school routine includes four days a week

at Adventure Central, a 4-H program in Dayton, Ohio. The 12-year-old's time is packed with research in the computer lab, kickball and arts and crafts.

Otherwise, Cerenity said she could enroll in after-care at her

school, "but that wouldn't be as much fun. I wouldn't really have any opportunities except to sit there and do my homework and wait for my dad to pick me up."

Beyond safety, what parents want in after-school is for children to develop interests and hobbies and stay out of trouble, the study found.

"Our schedules are not like they used to be," said Glen Miller, Cerenity's father, who drives a bus for her school system.

With two parents often working, he said, after-school has become as much a part of the traditional routine as families meeting up at day's end for dinner.

Poor and minority parents are much more likely to want an academic focus in their kids' activities, the study found. Yet they have many more problems finding programs that are affordable, available and high quality.

The findings come from two random phone surveys in June, one with 609 middle and high school students, one with 1,003 parents of children in kindergarten to grade 12. The margin of sampling error was 4 percentage points for the children and three points for the parents.

LASTING PEACE BEGINS IN THE HEART.

For more than 50 years,

the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has shared the promise of peace through Jesus Christ with people across the globe. Through Crusades, radio and TV broadcasts, the Internet, literature, and more, we are committed to reaching everyone we can with the life-changing power of God's love. We have seen thousands of broken hearts find forgiveness and healing, yet billions more live in fear and despair across the globe.

WILL YOU HELP?

To join us in this life-saving mission, please designate

CFC No. 2016 on your pledge card.

For more information, visit www.billygraham.org.

BILLY GRAHAM
EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Please check CFC No. 2016



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO LAS VEGAS!

To enter just visit Stripes Club by going to www.stripes.com and clicking on the Stripes Club link at the top of the page.

Stripes Club brings you these other great benefits:

- Free Photo-sharing - Store up to 500MB of your photos online to share with friends and family around the world.
- Great Savings on purchases from our Discount Store - Save up to 80% on great brand name merchandise every day.
- The easiest way to download music - Our partnership with Musicmatch gives you the easiest way to access over 700,000 songs online starting at only \$8 per month with Musicmatch® on Demand.
- Come back often to check as we add more great benefits to Stripes Club!

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

The competition is open only to DOD ID Card holders with APO or FPO addresses. Employees and/or family members of Stars and Stripes or the contest sponsors are not eligible to participate. You must be 18 years or older to participate and win. Go to www.StarsandStripes.com for other terms and conditions.

FACES

SHE'S POP ...



Greatest hits album has Shania Twain reflecting on career

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A car full of dudes. Radio blaring. Annoying guy in the back singing off-key to Shania Twain's "Man, I Feel Like a Woman" while his buddies look seriously uncomfortable.

Twain, who recently co-hosted Country Music Association awards with Brooks & Dunn, hasn't seen the Chevy commercial, but she's heard about it — and laughs at the thought.

She's the first to admit her songs have a strong female perspective. But it's far more than women who are buying her

records by the millions and filling arenas for her concerts.

"It's girls, boys, men, women, grandparents, everybody," Twain says. "I don't know why that is. They all relate to it somehow. I think they relate to the sense of humor of it. It's not straight-ahead female empowerment. Men relate to it because it's

got a sense of humor."

Twain's new album, a greatest hits package, came out Nov. 9, the same day at her CMA appearance. If it follows course, it will be a huge success. Her last three albums have topped the 10 million mark, with 1999's "Come On Over" reaching 20 million and placing her among music's elite.

Only a handful of acts — none of them country, not even Garth Brooks — have had bigger-selling albums.

"As a country artist, she is in a bit of a category by herself," said Wade Jessen, a chart director for Billboard magazine. "In terms of radio and video exposure, Shania is a bona fide signed, sealed and delivered crossover artist."

Dressed casually in a blue, green and white striped sweater with black pants and boots, Twain, 39, sips hot tea during an interview.

She's polite, offering refreshments to a guest, and candid, answering pointed questions without flinching.

She's unabashed in her pursuit of commercial success. She and her husband, producer extraordinaire Robert John "Mutt" Lange, approach each song as a potential radio hit. Artistic expression is fine and good, but only if it's commercially viable.

"We only write songs that we think are worthy of being hits, of being on the radio," Twain says.

"We work very hard to make every song like that."

To reach every demographic, they often record two versions of the same song, one country-flavored, maybe with fiddles or steel guitars, and the other pop-oriented.

Her music has become a staple on country, pop and adult contemporary stations. Her latest single, "Party for Two," one of three new songs on the greatest hits album, went to country radio as a duet with country newcomer Billy Currington and to pop radio as a duet with Sugar Ray frontman Mark McGrath.

"It just keeps us in the pattern of my career so far, going all the way back to 'That Don't Impress Me Much' and 'Man, I Feel Like a Woman,'" she said. "If you've got that kind of versatility, why not have fun with it? We have that diverse fan base, and it's great to be able to explore that."

Twain, who grew up poor in Ontario, Canada, almost always speaks in the plural when discussing her career, a nod to Lange's involvement.

A South Africa native, Lange had produced top-selling albums by Def Leppard, AC/DC, Foreigner, the Cars and Bryan Adams before he and Twain crossed paths.

After seeing a video she made for her self-titled debut album (the lowest seller of her career by far) he traveled to Nashville to meet her. They married in 1993, and he has been her collaborator and partner ever since. Together, they co-write all of her songs.

Early on, the relationship raised questions about her talent, fueled in part by her decision not to tour in support of her second album, "The Woman in Me" (she now says that she didn't have enough hits at that point to do a full show).

While Twain credits their relationship with helping her career, she dismisses suggestions that he is a puppeteer behind her success.

"He on his own has never had this kind of success. And me on my own, I doubt very much I would have had this kind of success. First of all, would I even have found anyone who had so much faith in me? Part of why I think I flourished is because he believed so much in me. He loved my voice; he loved my songwriting. He was my biggest fan."

As for the critics, she says she was ready for them. She had been writing songs and performing since she was a child and was confident in her abilities.

And today, she says, most of the doubters have gone away.

"There's so much consistency in the music, so much consistency in everything," she says. "You can't really duplicate that if it's not really you."

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

Visit www.stripes.com and click on Home Delivery to get started

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS & STRIPES
www.stripes.com

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR NEW WORLDWIDE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES? LOOK AT SPARTAN!

Professional Pilot
Aviation Mechanic
Avionics
Communications
Quality Control
Nondestructive Testing

www.spartan.edu
1-918 / 831-8686

Email: spartan@mail.spartan.edu

- Degree and Diploma Programs 12 Months to 30 Months
- 50% hands-on training
- Most programs approved for VA Benefits

SPARTAN
COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
AND TECHNOLOGY
Tulsa, OK • Licensed by OBPVS

Earn Your Degree at Home!

Use your **Military/VA Education Benefits.**

Cleveland Institute of Electronics offers nationally accredited distance learning programs in electronics and computer technology/VA & DANTES eligible.

Partial list programs offered:

- Associate Degrees in Electronics & Computer Technology

www.cie-wc.edu

Send for your **FREE Course Catalog** & see how easy it is to put your Military Education benefits to work for you & see if you qualify for **advanced standing**.

www.ciebookstore.com

CD tutorials, software, tool kits & more.
CIE 1776 E 17th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114



Microsoft acts to prevent altered Xboxes

BY ALLISON LINN
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — In the days before the release of the hotly anticipated "Halo 2" video game for the Xbox game console, some gamers noticed a sudden spike in the number of people being kicked off Microsoft Corp.'s online game service.

That was no coincidence.

The company said it increased its crackdown on those suspected of making unauthorized modifications to their Xboxes to ensure all players could blast away on an equal footing when joining the Xbox Live online gaming community.

People usually modify Xboxes so they can either cheat on games or use pirated copies, although some also have made changes so they can use the Xbox for other functions, such as playing music.

Cameron Ferroni, general manager of the Xbox software platform, said Microsoft has no interest in actually taking legal action against individual users. But the company does want to banish scoundrels from its online service.

"We want to preserve the experience of Xbox Live," he said.

It's hard to know how many of Microsoft's 15.5 million Xbox users have modified their game consoles, although analysts and those at the company both believe it's a small percentage.

Microsoft has a unique glimpse into the approximately 1 million Xbox Live users' computers because those users agree Microsoft has the right to gather certain information.



In the days before the release of "Halo 2," some gamers noticed a spike in the number of people being kicked off Microsoft Corp.'s online game service as the company increased its crackdown on those suspected of making unauthorized modifications to their Xboxes. Xbox's Cameron Ferroni said the goal is to make sure there's a level playing field.

Ferroni declined to go into specifics of how the company can check Xbox Live users' machines for suspected modifications, but he said Microsoft has no way of checking whether players who don't use Xbox Live have modified their machines.

Neil Smith, an intellectual property lawyer in San Francisco, said there's little legal risk in modifying a game system for relatively benign personal use, such as to give your character infinite lives or to move easily advance to another level.

But Microsoft said it wants to guard against such cheating on Xbox Live, where multiple players can take part in games together.

Ferroni said the goal is to make sure there's a level playing field.

Smith, who has represented several video game companies, said users face more legal risk — and companies have more leverage — if a person is modifying the system to play pirated or other unauthorized games.

That's especially true if the person is altering his or her system's security codes or settings.

Companies are much more eager to go after potential pirates, since stolen copies can lead to lost revenue. Microsoft said it has focused its legal efforts on those it believes are manufacturing pirated games or mass-producing Xbox modifications.

Smith said the legality of modifying other people's technology remains hazy.

Other tech firms have grappled with how much can be done to their systems without their consent.

Earlier this year, Seattle-based RealNetworks caused a stir when it said it had developed software that allows songs purchased from its online music store to transfer to Apple Computer Inc.'s iPod, by skirting internal copy protections. Apple, which has closely guarded control of its music player, responded by saying that RealNetworks "has adopted the tactics and ethics of a hacker."

Other video game consoles don't seem to face as much tinkering for the sake of piracy as the Xbox, said P.J. McNeely, an analyst with American Technology Research. Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 2 doesn't have as complex anticopy measures, he said, and Nintendo Co.'s cartridge-based games are much more difficult to pirate than the CDs that Microsoft and Sony use.

Analyst Rob Enderle with the Enderle Group said Microsoft's Xbox is also much more vulnerable to tinkering because its popular built-in hard drive more closely mimics a regular personal computer, whereas the other systems rely on less-familiar technology.

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn Your Bachelor or MBA in Business Administration ONLINE at NO TUITION COST TO YOU!

Earn your Bachelor or MBA in Business Administration at NO TUITION COST TO YOU for up to 28 credits per year!

Earn your credits around TDY's and Deployments

Special MBA in Military Management for Graduates of ACSC, CGSC, CNCS, or MCCSC.

- Programs that meet your schedule needs
- All courses ONLINE!
- BSBA and MBA
- DANTES Affiliated
- Special rates for military spouses

NO TUITION COST TO YOU!



TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
www.tourou.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-816-0366 • 714-816-0367 Fax

College of Business Administration e-mail: infocba@tourou.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.tourou.edu>

Now Accepting Applications for Winter 2004 Session.



YOUR MONEY

Ben Stein: Save and 'you'll be golden'

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Canadian Ben Stein is making the rounds in his trademark business suit and sneakers with a not-so-funny message for Americans: "People aren't saving anywhere near enough for a comfortable retirement."

Stein, who serves as spokesman for the annual National Retirement Planning Week, says he's worried that many people won't be able to retire if they will have saved so little that they'll outlive their money.

He scoffs at the excuses people come up with for not saving.

"People tell me, 'I have to buy a new coat' or 'I have to have a flat-screen TV,'" Stein said in an interview. "Then in the next breath they say, 'But I don't have enough money to save.'"

Stein, an economist in addition to being a humorist, says Americans to look at their retirement nest eggs and try to develop a plan to make them grow.

Young people can take advantage of compounding interest over time. Stein's advice to them is to "save systematically, and you'll be golden." He suggests a savings target of 10 percent of income.

Older people may need to do some strategizing, and that may require the help of a financial planner or other trusted adviser, he said. But beyond a person is



Canadian Ben Stein serves as spokesman for the annual National Retirement Planning Week. He says he's worried that many people won't be able to retire or will have saved so little that they'll outlive their money.

to retirement age, the more important it is to act fast.

"Start immediately, even if you're in your 50s," he said.

"There's little question but that Americans need to think more seriously about retirement savings. A survey by the nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington, D.C., found that just 42 percent of workers or their spouses have done a calculation of how much they need for retirement. That's down from 53 percent in 2000.

Dallas L. Salisbury, chief execu-

tive of the institute, believes the decline is related to fear.

"People liked doing it in the years when they could do their calculations using a high investment return, and they felt good," he said. "As rates of return came down in the last couple of years, they stopped. People don't like bad news."

But, he said, workers need to do those calculations if they're going to increase their retirement savings rate. A good online calculator is at www.asec.org/balpark, a site maintained by the EBRI-affiliated American Savings Education Council.

According to the EBRI survey, 45 percent of workers have less than \$25,000 saved for retirement, while just 18 percent have \$100,000 or more. Even among workers 55 and older, 29 percent have less than \$25,000 put away, while 26 percent have \$100,000 or more.

Salisbury says people need to start by tracking their spending for a month or so to determine where their money is going. Then they need to make a budget that includes setting aside some money each month for retirement.

"I recommend some type of automatic transfer," Salisbury said.

That is, workers could have a portion of their paycheck deposited directly into a company-sponsored retirement account or into an Individual Retirement Account. Earnings in both accounts aren't taxed until they're withdrawn at retirement.

Bruce Harrington, a vice president with MFS Investment Management in Boston, recommends that people look seriously at maxing out their company-sponsored 401(k) or 403(b) retirement accounts.

The contribution limit for these tax-advantaged accounts will rise to \$14,000 in 2005 from \$13,000 this year. Workers 50 and older can add a catch-up contribution of \$4,000 next year, up from \$3,000 this year.

The maximums on IRA ac-

counts rise to \$4,000 next year from \$3,000 this year, with a \$500 catch-up provision for those 50 and older.

"Most people don't figure out their retirement plan — how much they'll need to live off of — until they're 3 to 5 years away from retiring," Harrington said. "It's like going to the airport and then deciding what vacation you're going to go on."

Harrington suggests that people "spend 15 minutes and figure out how much you need to retire," which in many cases is about 80 percent of your current income. MFS offers a retirement planning calculator on its Web site at www.mfs.com.

"Look at gap between where you are and where you should be and start working to fill it," Harrington said.

One strategy, he said, is for workers to consider to increasing their 401(k) contributions to retirement accounts by a percentage point or two every year until they reach the maximum. Many companies that sponsor plans offer workers help in allocating their savings among stocks, bonds and other investments, he noted. Or people can seek help from professional planners.

"The pot at the end of the rainbow is that you'll be able to retire with dignity," he said.

The National Retirement Planning Week site, which also includes calculators, is at www.retireyouterms.org.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	Low	High	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week	% Chg
10,633.82	9,850.50	11,244.46	+61.57	+0.57	+21.87	+0.21
3,628.29	2,743.46	4,015.11	+28.71	+0.71	+17.31	+0.59
1,315.05	1,015.25	1,415.11	+28.19	+2.19	+22.11	+0.40
7,014.32	5,922.45	7,814.46	+104.16	+1.46	+89.90	+1.23
1,394.11	1,064.50	1,514.11	+126.16	+1.26	+124.40	+1.21
2,153.83	1,750.82	2,353.83	+299.08	+16.16	+105.53	+1.05
1,384.86	1,011.20	1,511.20	+118.54	+11.54	+55.11	+1.11
334.29	245.25	354.25	+9.00	+2.50	+11.25	+1.52
1,292.88	1,151.90	1,411.90	+62.57	+5.57	+26.18	+1.38
114.61	100.25	120.25	+11.00	+11.00	+7.42	+1.11

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Value	Volume
3,628.29	2,743.46	4,015.11
1,315.05	1,015.25	1,415.11
7,014.32	5,922.45	7,814.46
1,394.11	1,064.50	1,514.11
2,153.83	1,750.82	2,353.83
1,384.86	1,011.20	1,511.20
334.29	245.25	354.25
1,292.88	1,151.90	1,411.90
114.61	100.25	120.25

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	LC	FC	YTD
Airbus Technics	—	16	64.25	+43	+11.2
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8
Boeing	—	18	54.75	+18	+5.8

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	FC	YTD
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6
Fidelity Asset Manager	28.96	+1.12	+7.6

EXCHANGE RATES

Japanese yen (Nov. 19)	109.00
South Korean won (Nov. 18)	1,064.00
Chinese yuan (Nov. 18)	\$1,374
British pound	0.377
Swiss franc	1.5994
Swedish krona	1.1937
Denmark (krone)	6.46
Portuguese escudo	200.48
Spanish peseta	166.64
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.7531
Malaysian ringgit	1.3675
Indonesian rupiah	1,547.56
Philippine peso	56.30
Singapore dollar	1.4643
Thai baht	34.76
South African rand	1.6628
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750
Israeli sheqel	1.492750

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	\$444.80
Silver	\$7.662
Platinum	\$912.00
Palladium	\$412.00
Rhodium	\$1,100.00
Iridium	\$1,100.00
Osmium	\$1,100.00
Ruthenium	\$1,100.00
Technetium	\$1,100.00
Yttrium	\$1,100.00
Zirconium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.00
Helium	\$1,100.00
Lithium	\$1,100.00
Sodium	\$1,100.00
Potassium	\$1,100.00
Barium	\$1,100.00
Strontium	\$1,100.00
Calcium	\$1,100.00
Magnesium	\$1,100.00
Aluminum	\$1,100.00
Silicon	\$1,100.00
Carbon	\$1,100.00
Nitrogen	\$1,100.00
Oxygen	\$1,100.00
Hydrogen	\$1,100.

Divorce deal for sale

CA LOS ANGELES — For sale: One ex-wife's \$250 million divorce judgment. A buyer has to do is figure out how to collect from the Saudi royal family.

After battling for more than 20 years to collect the court-ordered judgment, Diana Bilineil said she has decided to sell it — at a substantial discount — on the chance that others may have better means to track it down.

"It's a dandy investment opportunity," said her lawyer, Helen Dorch-White.

Bilineil's late ex-husband, Sheikh Mohammed al-Fassi, died in Cairo of an infected hernia in 2002 at the age of 50 after claiming he had transferred all of his holdings to relatives, including Saudi King Fahd and his brother Prince Turki. According to a court ruling, he owed Bilineil half his assets.

Boy killer seeks retrial

GA ATLANTA — It was a murder that stunned the nation. Michael Lewis was 13, a boy who stood less than 5 feet tall, when he walked up to a parked car at an Atlanta convenience store in 1997 and shot a stranger dead in front of the man's two sons.

Sociologists called Lewis a "super predator." Prosecutors called the boy known as "Little B" a cold-blooded thug. At 14, Lewis was sentenced to life in prison.

Now a 21-year-old man, Lewis asked Georgia's highest court to give him a new trial, saying he is innocent and wasn't competent because of his age and mental incapacity to defend himself.

Proud to be a loser

ME ELLSWORTH — Call Peter Loisel a big fat loser and he'd have to agree.

Between October 2001 and July 2004, the Ellsworth Middle School math teacher lost nearly 500 pounds, and he did it without gastric bypass surgery. He dropped the pounds the old-fashioned way — with diet and exercise.

While Loisel plays down his success, he readily admits having been inconvenienced and emotionally affected by his weight. He wasn't able to be in his sister's wedding because it was impossible to find a tuxedo that fit.

These days, he's the shell of his old self. At his peak, he weighed 763 pounds. Now 6-foot-6 "Big Pete" weighs in around 270.

Lawyer suspected

WA SEATTLE — Prosecutors charged a lawyer with attempted first-degree murder Monday in the shooting of a rival attorney who had sought a contempt citation against him.

The prosecutors said William R. Joyce, 50, shot Kevin Jung in the back of the head as Jung sat in a car outside his office. A hearing on the contempt request had been scheduled later in the day.

A witness scribbled down the license plate of Joyce's rented car as it squealed away from the scene,



and police tracked him down through the rental company.

Jung, a 44-year-old married father of two, remained in critical condition Monday. Doctors said he had serious brain damage, according to the charging documents in King County court.

Residents sue pueblo

NM ISLETA PUEBLO — A group of lifelong residents are suing this Indian pueblo on the south edge of Albuquerque, challenging its determination that they or their heirs don't qualify as tribal members.

The three families involved in the suit are descendants of people who came to Isleta from another pueblo and were adopted into the community. Pueblo Gov. Alvin Lucero declined to comment.

Burns kill woman

CA YUCAIPA — Raymond Gonzalez stared in the distance as he used a red bandana to wipe away the tears, recalling the moment he learned his neighbor died despite his efforts to extinguish flames that engulfed her.

Gonzalez, 81, said his 83-year-old neighbor, Janice White, was alert after he smuffed the fire with a blanket.

Gonzalez wanted to replace the blanket with a fresh one and remove a wrap she wore on her head, but White told him to leave the items alone, he said.

"That's why I thought she was going to be all right," he said Tuesday.



Rock the boat

A boat makes its way through high waves into Government Cut off Miami Beach, Fla. High winds and surf have kept most beach goers and boat traffic away.

"I feel sorry, you know."

White's clothes accidentally caught on fire Sunday morning while she was making tea, authorities said.

She suffered second- and third-degree burns over about 70 percent of her body, officials said. She died the next day.

Plans for play

NY NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that 25 new playgrounds will be built at public schools across the city over the next five years.

The Department of Education will share the \$25 million bill with the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit land conservation organization, Bloomberg said.

City officials said they would decide which schools receive the new playgrounds based on need, and they will likely be in low-income, high-density neighborhoods.

P.S. 180 in Harlem and I.S. 220 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, have already been selected and will have new playgrounds next fall.

The playgrounds will be open to the public after school lets out each day.

Parakeet revival

SC CHARLESTON — Could the awesome and seemingly limitless power of DNA be focused on a parakeet? That question is intriguing historians who want to bring back the extinct Carolina parakeet — the only parrot species native to South Carolina.

There are still 37 egg shells from the parakeets in museums around the country. The Franklin County Historical Association in Mount Vernon, Texas, discovered last year it had a Carolina parakeet egg in its collection.

In preparing it for exhibit, the museum decided not to clean it after someone mentioned the shell could have a bit of dried DNA from blood or fluid.

"That's movies, not real life," said Jean Woods, bird curator for the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

"But on the other hand, I'm not saying it can't happen."

Vermont loves ladies

VT MONTPELIER — Vermont is the best state in the nation for women, according to a new report.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research rated the 50 states based on evaluations of political, economic, social and health climates.

Although some states received higher grades than Vermont in certain categories, Vermont received its top overall ranking by consistently getting high grades across the board.

The state received an A- for reproductive rights and then grades of B or B- for women's political participation, employment and earnings, economic autonomy, and health.

Following Vermont at the top were Connecticut, Minnesota, Washington and Oregon. Mississippi was rated the worst state, receiving a grade off D- or F in each category.



Afternoon stroll

Kathleen O'Dekirk and her dog Winston run in the park in Chicago.



Hang time

A snowboarder grinds a rail at the Brighton terrain park in Utah.



Taking GIs fishing

A woman waves an U.S. flag to soldiers aboard charter fishing boats in Islamorada, Fla., as they depart for a day of angling off the Florida Keys. About 60 military personnel took part in free fishing trips during the "Take a Soldier Fishing" program.



Pardon me

Korey Foltz kneels with a turkey in Mathias, W.Va. Two turkeys from the Foltz farm were sent to the White House for the annual Thanksgiving ceremony. This is the 57th anniversary of the first National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation to President Harry Truman. After the ceremony, the turkeys will be retired to the Kidwell Farm petting zoo at Frying Pan Park.



Peering down

A snowy owl is perched on a chimney top in Hazleton, Pa.

Mom charged in fire

OH TOLEDO — The mother of six of seven children killed in an apartment fire was charged with involuntary manslaughter after investigators discovered she was visiting a neighbor at the time, a prosecutor said. Melinda Ragland was at an apartment about 80 yards away when the blaze started, prosecutor John Weglian said.

"We believe the evidence established that she breached her duty of care for the children," Weglian said.

The children, ages 6 months to 7 years, died of smoke inhalation Oct. 24 after the fire started on a mattress in an upstairs bedroom. Investigators said a child playing with a candle, lighter or matches started the blaze. Six siblings and a cousin were killed.

Ragland could get two to 10 years in prison on each of seven counts of involuntary manslaughter if convicted. She was also charged with seven counts of child endangering, each offense punishable by one to five years behind bars.

Go, team fruit!

WA SEATTLE — Fans who live and breathe the rivalry between the Huskies and Cougars can now eat it up.

Yakima Valley farmer Randy Valicoff has ripened the likenesses of the teams' mascots into his apples and hopes to sell them in time for the annual football showdown between the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Branding fruit has been done before, but it's new to state football fans.

The third-generation farmer uses carefully applied logo stickers to block the sun's rays. As the apple matures, the logo appears where the sticker kept the skin from ripening.

The result: fruit bearing brightly yellow Cougar and Husky logos.

Restoring Poplar Forest

VA FOREST — The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, which is restoring Poplar Forest, plans to buy 72 acres of land from Lynchburg's Industrial Development Authority for \$3 million to add to Thomas Jefferson's country retreat. Developers had wanted to build a shopping center on half the parcel. The 4,800-acre property left the Jefferson family's possession in the mid-1800s and was occupied as a private residence until restoration began in 1984.

Deadly mistake

NY ROCHESTER — A man admitted to shooting another man to death in what police believe was a case of mistaken identity.

Michael Hernandez, 21, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 36-year-old Torrance Thompson.

Prosecutors said Hernandez was trying to break up a fight between his girlfriend and another woman on July 10, and fired his 32-caliber pistol in the air. At the same time, Hernandez was struck in the leg by a bullet.

Hernandez went home, re-

turned a half-hour later with his cousin and approached a crowd that had gathered around the fight scene.

Hernandez singled out Thompson, hitting him in the face with his pistol and shooting him in the stomach, authorities said. Thompson did not take part in the earlier confrontation.

Mercury spill shutdown

KY HODGENVILLE — A container of liquid mercury that officials believe was taken from a dentist office trash can caused schools to be shut down in Larue County. Officials say a high school student took the container to school and spilled mercury on the bus. More of it was spilled in Larue County High School.

Officials haven't decided if the student will be punished. An EPA team from Atlanta, in full protective gear, cleaned up the mercury.

Holiday cheer will go on

PA NORTH CAMBRIA — Residents and local businesses in one Cambria County borough wouldn't let vandalizing Grinchies steal the launch of their Christmas season.

Residents and local businesses pledged more than \$400 to replace the lights throughout Fridman park that were vandalized. The Northern Cambria Area Business Alliance chipped in another \$250. The borough council initially canceled the celebration, but it will now go on as scheduled the day after Thanksgiving.

School lab vandalism

IA IOWA CITY — Vandals dumped chemicals, damaged computers and freed research animals at the University of Iowa, officials said.

The FBI was called in to investigate the vandalism discovered at Seashore Hall and Spence Laboratories.

Seashore Hall houses the university's psychology, journalism and sociology departments.

The vandalism included laboratories where research animals were housed. An undetermined number of mice and rats were missing. More than 30 computers were damaged, university officials said.

Because of uncertainty about the extent of the damage, including the deliberate dumping of chemicals, university police evacuated the building and don't expect to reopen it until after the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Nursing home ban

RI PROVIDENCE — The state Health Department tentatively lifted a ban on admissions to the Haven Health Center nursing home.

The center made significant progress in correcting problems with patient care that forced the sanction in September, the department said. Problems included unclean food and poor sanitation. Nursing homes statewide are under scrutiny since a Providence nursing home closed in June because of poor management.

Stories and photos from wire services

Shop the BEST at the 2004 JVC® Jazz

November 12th - Nov



PD42DV2
"DynaPix Series" 42" Multi System Plasma Display
• 5000:1 high contrast, 430cd/m² brightness
• Stereo speakers and subwoofer built in
• JVC exclusive D.L.S.T for superb picture quality

Special
\$2,999
Reg: \$3,499
Save: \$500

Free: DVD recorder
DRMT05UJ
with purchase

MPXV841US
Order key: I100L
Mobile Mini Note Personal Computer
FREE "100" Laptop Bag and one 1-hour battery
• DVD-ROM & CD-RW drive
• Built in wireless LAN
• 40GB hard disc drive and 256MB memory



Special
\$1,799
Reg: \$1,899
Save: \$100

Special
\$1,699
Reg: \$1,999
Save: \$300

AV65WP55
"I-Art Pro Series" 65" HDTV-Ready NTSC Projection TV
• JVC exclusive D.L.S.T 1080i up conversion
• HDMI digital interface
• Split screen, index scan, freeze



EXA1UJ
DVD VHS Micro VHS
• The world's
• Digital direct
• Independent



Special
\$379
Reg: \$449
Save: \$70



DRM1V5UJ **Order key: I100T**
Multi Format DVD Recorder & VHS Recorder Combo
• Multi format DVD video recorder
• Digital direct progressive scan output
• Super MPEG encode pro-processor and past-processor

Special
\$299
Reg: \$399
Save: \$100



GRD73U
High Band Digital Camcorder
• 700x digital hyper zoom/16x optical zoom
• 2.5" clear LCD monitor and color viewfinder
• SD removable memory compatible

Special
\$269
Reg: \$299
Save: \$30



RX8048UJ **Order key: S562A**
100W x 6 Audio/Video Control Receiver
• Multi-room/multi source with RF remote
• DVD multi-channel audio compatible
• Dolby digital EX/Dolby digital/DTS-ES/Dolby pro-logic II



AV27F475
27" NTSC Flat TV
• Pure flat tube with INVAR shadow mask
• 3 line digital comb filter
• 15W audio output

Spec
\$249
Reg: \$299
Save: \$50

Special
\$89
Reg: \$99
Save: \$10



SPDWF10 **Order key: I100W**
100W Powered Subwoofer
• High efficiency 100W PWM digital amplifier
• Magnetically shield for home theater
• Auto power on/standby

Special
\$59
Reg: \$69
Save: \$10



XVN312SUJ **Order key: S553G**
Progressive Scan DVD Player
• Digital direct progressive scan output
• Video line processor
• Express play start

Special
\$25
Reg: \$29
14% off



SPSB100 **Order key: I100U**
Omni-Directional Speaker
• Speaker for your surround upgrade
• Magnetically shield for home theater
• Bass reflex design



Special
\$159
Reg: \$189
Save: \$30

KSAX7700 **Order key: I100Y**
"Warren G" Signature Series Bridgeable 2-ch Car Power Amplifier
• Max power output mono 500W 2CH 320W
• Dynamic optimum high power circuit & pure class A circuit
• Built in variable crossover network



AAFES
aafes.com...open all the time!

Consumer Electronics
Power Zone
2004

These and other JVC products
Japan: Misawa, Yokota & Zama Korea: C
Okinawa: Foster & Kac

Some Products may not be available at all stores

deals in town
Sweepstakes
ember 24th



Order key: I100X
deo/Audio
System
3 first wood cone speakers
ct progressive scan output
1t hybrid feedback digital amp

Special
\$449
Reg: \$499
Save: \$50



ial
9
89
\$40

THS3UJ Order key: K886Z
DVD Home Theater System

- Digital progressive scan
- 5 speakers and 52W subwoofer
- Front speakers and center speaker
- Omnidirectional surround speakers
- Dolby digital, DTS, Dolby pro logic II decoder

Special
\$179
Reg: \$199
Save: \$20



Special
\$399
Reg: \$459
Save: \$60

THM603UJ
5-Disc Changer DVD Home Theater System

- Digital direct progressive scan
- 5 speakers and 125W powered subwoofer
 - Floor standing front speakers
 - Floor standing omni-directional surround speakers
 - Center speaker
- Dolby digital, DTS, Dolby pro logic II decoder



Special
\$129
Reg: \$159
Save: \$30

SPF508 Order key: **I101A**
2-Way Floor Standing Speakers

- High power handling of 100W
- 0.39" x 2 plus tweeter

audio line up now at your nearest participating store



Special
\$89
Reg: \$119
Save: \$30

KDG300 Order key: **K886R**
Car CD/MP3 Receiver

- 50W x 4 audio power output
- Multi-color display
- CEQ



CSWG1200
"Warren G" Signature Series
12" Car Subwoofer Unit

- 1000W max music power
- Glass fiber cone and dual voice coil
- Strantium magnet and air-cooling system



Special
\$79
Reg: \$99
Save: \$20

CSHX6955
"HX Series"
6" x 5" 5-way Car Speaker (each)
• 420W max. music power
• Heat resistant square wire voice coil



KDS5050 Order key: **K878M**
Car CD Receiver
 • 45W x 4 audio power output
 • cFD

**Special
buy!**
Limited Quantities
\$69

Products are available at
 sey, Humphreys, Osan, Walker & Yongsan
 lena **Guam:** Andersen

es. Car Products are not available in Korea.



STARS AND STRIPES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. NELSON, Publisher
JOHN D. PANASKEVICZ, General Manager, Pacific
LT. COL. DANIEL R. TODD, USAF, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MAGAZINE, Editorial Director
BOB CLAWSON, Managing Editor
ROBERT GRILLI, Associate Editor
BROOKS E. BOWERS, Opinion Editor, Pacific
JOE GROSZEL, Executive Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:
Chris Carlson, News Peter Pollock, Photo/Graphics
Brian Brown, Features Sean Moore, Sports
T.D. Pacific

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO PB 96337-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: (21-17) Roppongi, 7-chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106, Japan
FAX: USN 225-3132, ext. 43 (8) 340A-8936
E-MAIL: Readers Forum: letters@psstripes.com and
advertising: advertising@psstripes.com and
Marketing: marketing@psstripes.com and
Circulation: circulation@psstripes.com and
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington
DC 20045-1301, Phone USN 212-763-0900 or
+1 (410) 293-7600, Fax +1 (410) 293-7680
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Magaziner, 529 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1301, Phone USN 212-
763-0900 or +1 (410) 293-7600
E-mail: davidmagaziner@psstripes.com and
EMBASSYMAN: Joe Ungar, Send comments to: Embassyman, Stars
Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301, Phone (civilian) +1 (410) 364-6032; or +1 (410)
364-8936; or e-mail: embassyman@psstripes.com and

How to call us

GENERAL MANAGER: USN 225-3132, ext. (+8) (3) 340A-8936
READERS' FORUM: e-mail: letters@psstripes.com and
+1 (410) 293-7600, Fax +1 (410) 293-7680
SPORTS: e-mail: sports@psstripes.com and (+8) (8)
853-2702; e-mail: comments@psstripes.com and
For business, advertising and circulation numbers,
turn to the back section

News Bureaus

JAPAN
Japan Bureau Chief: Sid Acker, Unit 45002, APO PB 96337-5002,
USN 225-3353; ext. (3) 340A-8942; fax USN 225-3271;
or +1 (410) 293-7600, e-mail: japan@psstripes.com and
Misawa: Jennifer H. Swan, Unit 23157-2500, ext. (0176)
USN 225-3141, ext. 226-2500, e-mail: jhswan@psstripes.com and
USN 225-3847; e-mail: jhswan@psstripes.com and
Sasebo/Heikou: Greg Tyler, FSC 476, Box 1126, PPO AF
22322, ext. (4) 226-3032, e-mail: gtyler@psstripes.com and
Tokyo: Jiliana Griller and Hana Kusumoto, Unit USN 225-3105
ext. (+8) (3) 340A-8936; e-mail: jiliana@psstripes.com and
USN 225-3271, e-mail: jgriller@psstripes.com and
Nagasaki: Nancy Woodhouse, Unit USN 241-2874 or ext.
+1 (81) (3) 3401-8925; fax USN 241-2876; e-mail:
nwoodhouse@psstripes.com and
Vietnam Camp: Camp Camp Falls, Vice Little, Unit USN 5088 APO
96328-5058, Unit USN 225-9233, ext. (40) 2502-2511, ext.
50733 (4) 25-7522, e-mail: vietnam@psstripes.com and
Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida and
Mark Rankins, Camp Foster, Unit USN 23157, PPO AF 96374, fax
USN 645-3807 or ext. (+8) (8) 853-2702; fax USN 645-
645-9165; e-mail: okinawa@psstripes.com and

KOREA

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Giordano, Unit 15334, APO
96205-0423, Unit USN 721-7132 or ext. (+8) (2)
2270-5334; e-mail: jgiordano@psstripes.com and
Camp Red Cloud/Camp Casey, South Korea: Address: Stars and
Stripes, c/o HMC 210 (P40), Unit 15041, APO AF 96208-0289,
ext. (3) 9621-7134; e-mail: korea@psstripes.com and
Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida and
Mark Rankins, Camp Foster, Unit USN 23157, PPO AF 96374, fax
USN 645-3807 or ext. (+8) (8) 853-2702; fax USN 645-
645-9165; e-mail: okinawa@psstripes.com and

Seoul: Ted Weaver and Hwang Hee-hyun, Unit 15334, APO
96205-0423, Unit USN 721-7132 or ext. (+8) (2) 2270-5334;
e-mail: korea@psstripes.com and
Taejeon: Unit 15334, APO 96205-0423, Unit USN 721-7131,
ext. (+8) (2) 2270-7132; fax USN 721-7141; e-mail:
korea@psstripes.com and
WASHINGTON DC
Bureau editor: Patrick Doherty, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301, ext. (+1) (202) 761-0859;
e-mail: patrickdoherty@psstripes.com and
Lisa Burgess, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC
20045-1301, ext. (+1) (703) 695-4792, fax civ. (+1) (703)
693-6306; e-mail: lburgess@psstripes.com and

Stars and Stripes (USPS 47-900) is published daily (except
Christmas and New Year's) for 30 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the
Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage is paid at San Francisco, Calif.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes,
Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of
Defense for members of the Military Services overseas. However, the
contents of the STARS AND STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be
considered as the official views, or endorsed by the U.S. Government.
Inquiries regarding the Department of Defense or the U.S. Pacific Command, as well
as the STARS AND STRIPES, should be directed to the nearest official
channel and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote and
isolated locations where overseas 000 personnel are located.
No appearance of endorsement in this publication, including reports
or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of De-
fense or the STARS AND STRIPES of the products or services advertised.
Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made avail-
able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion,
sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affilia-
tion, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: www.stripes.com

Infantry is as infantry does

I have served 16 years in the infantry, four as an active-duty Marine and the remainder with the National Guard. I currently serve as a rifle squad leader in Baghdad, and have been here for more than seven months. I have three points to offer in the great debate over whether we wear a Combat Infantryman Badge.

First: Who cares? What is the Army's obsession with trinkets to hang on uniforms? Every individual knows exactly what he/she did in service to the nation. Isn't that enough?

Second: The CIB is an inappropriate award for the counterinsurgency operations that dominate the Iraq war. It was created to acknowledge the very distinct, dangerous and miserable experience of the World War II infantryman, a conflict where (arguably) the infantry comprised 10 percent of the total force and suffered 90 percent of the casualties. The Korean and Vietnam wars, although quite different in some ways, were similar in this respect to WWII. The conflict in Iraq cannot be directly compared to any of those wars in scope, degree of carnage or hardship. I suggest following the Marine Corps' example of awarding a combat action ribbon or its equivalent universally to all troops who have direct contact with the enemy. Save the CIB for the high-intensity wars that it was intended.

Third: If the Army must continue awarding the CIB for low-intensity warfare, then they should be offering it to any soldier who operates as a de facto infantryman, regardless of military occupational specialty. How does an engineer, artilleryman, military policeman or any other soldier who carries a rifle and goes on patrol differ in reality from an 11B? Training? So what? The simple fact of the matter is that in this type of warfare the infantry experience is no longer unique in its degree of hardship or peril.

My CIB resides in my personnel records. I don't wear it because when I

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. MAIL: International mail:
Readers' Forum Stars and Stripes
Unit 45002
APO AF 96337-5002 Tokyo 106-0032

Via fax from Japan: (3) 340A-8936;
USN 225-3271

Via fax from outside Japan:
Locality code +81 3-5408-8936;
USN 225-3271

E-mail: letters@psstripes.com and

If you really want to see what it takes to get a CIB, go to Fallujah, Mosul or even Haifa Street in central Baghdad. Our FOB started off with approximately 600 personnel and has taken massive casualties from actions in sector. My company alone has had 50 percent of its personnel awarded Purple Hearts, and our sister company has awarded more than 60 Purple Hearts. Tell me how being engaged by small-arms fire or having mortars land in your FOB qualifies you to wear an award given strictly to one MOS.

On a final note, to all the personnel who deem it necessary to go out with a combat unit to get a CIB or Combat Medical Badge: don't be afraid. If you just put yourself in harm's way for no reason. The bragging rights and medals aren't worth the risk you're taking to get them. Everyone has a job to do over here. Use your training and we'll all make it home to our families in one piece. God speed and good luck.

Sgt. Justin Chestnut

Forward Operating Base Independence, Iraq

Soldiers' refusal cowardly

The writer of the Nov. 12 letter "Soldiers should be punished" was absolutely right. What those soldiers who refused to go on a convoy mission did was an act of cowardice. I rode in the back of an open Humvee pulling security in downtown Baghdad before "unarmored vehicles" were even thought of. Those soldiers only thought of themselves, and not the mission or who they were affecting. If we had done the same thing, the mission would never have gotten accomplished.

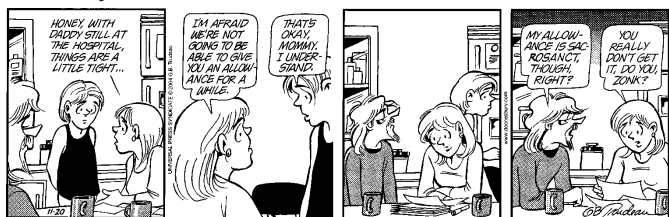
Part of being a soldier is something called sacrifice. The soldiers who refused to go on the mission need to think about that. If they get a simple Article 15, they should consider themselves lucky. I'm just glad I don't have to live with my soldiers or an act of cowardice the way those soldiers do.

Sgt. David C. McGuire

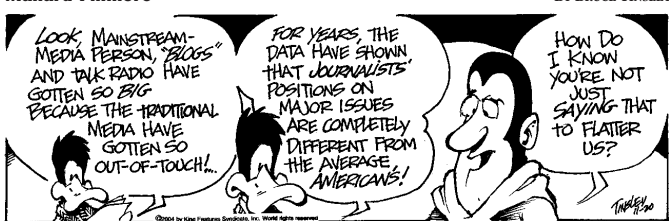
Baumholder, Germany

By GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore

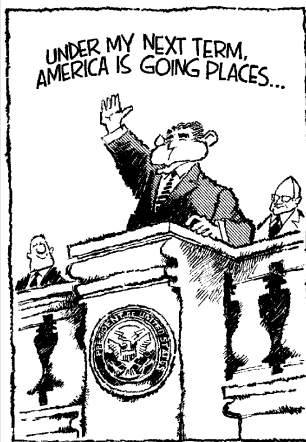
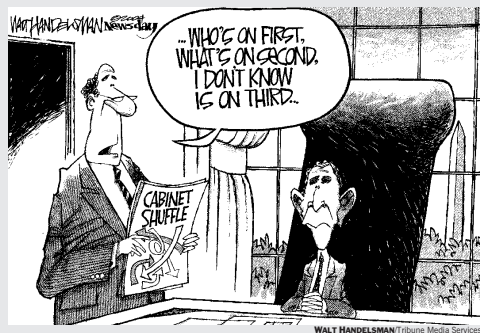
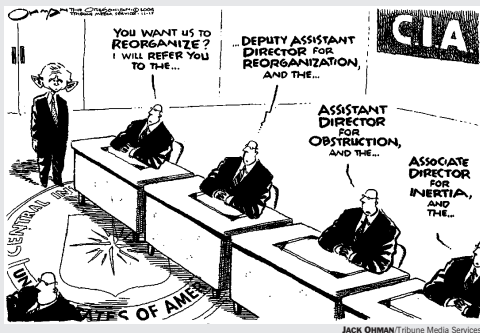


By GARRY TINSLEY

©2004 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Horoscope

This is the last full day of the sun in Scorpio, as tomorrow ushers in a fiery Sagittarius solar infusion. The Pisces moon persuades us to contemplate what we've taken from the past few weeks. Probably, it will be difficult to articulate the exact lessons, but it's enough to know that awareness has been heightened and we're not the same.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 20) It's romance galore this year! You're creating magic between you and people you're attracted to. The holiday season features a choice—you could break a heart, if you're not careful! A relationship with someone younger helps finances. Keep up on your skills, and you'll be soaking away cash for travel and upgrades in April.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can be extraordinarily candid—a quality that will make you both popular and controversial. Nobody needs to ask, "Where's the party?" They can clearly see that the party is where you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll be challenged when social contact is not what you expected. You're a sympathetic listener, but with extremely needy and complex people, you struggle to find a foothold. Ultimately, your compassion carries you through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You practically buzz with the urge to throw a nervous tantrum, but you can channel the energy usefully into an off-the-wall project. You're particularly lucky when you use a new medium to express yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You're sensitive enough to pick up on the emotional nuances of a situation but tart enough to wisecrack about it. Why must everyone be so touchy? At least someone will think you're funny.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If this day were a color, it would be electric pink. Events are altogether weird and unnatural. Someone you courted among the lost souls will show

up. You've a choice about how deeply you want to engage this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of enthusiasm could get on your nerves. Will good is raw energy unless it's focused toward a productive end? Well, that's where you come in.

Holiday Mathis
Step right up, and take over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Relationships are in transition. If you let things get romantic, they will. The only thing stopping the flow of tender emotions is your resistance to them. Figure out what it will take for you to trust and open up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You're demure and giggly—so unlike you, but it's fun to try a different approach. Such experimentation could land you in a new location. It's eye opening to see where people around you are from and how they live.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Much is exchanged in the spirit of friendliness and good manners. Beware of the word "try." People who say they will, won't. Be willing to make a commitment either way instead of trying.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You remain objective and not too serious. So it's hard to relate to people who won't admit what they don't want to admit—even if you have videotaped proof! Continue to model warmth and forgiveness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're in the mood for a little unabashed consumerism. The rush that comes from purchasing a kind of wonder product or hope-in-a-bottle is a guilty pleasure. Appreciate those who tolerate your eccentricities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) What a jewel you are! Your hours are dedicated to personal betterment and feeling swell. You're somewhat of a domestic super-hero, too. You have the skill to handle now what could potentially be hazardous later.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



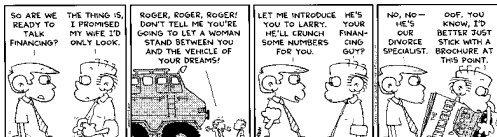
Better or Worse



Peanuts



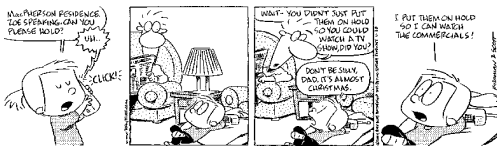
Fokrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



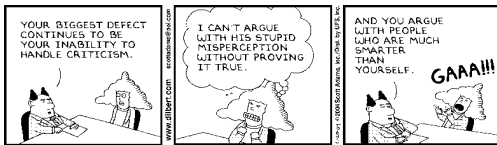
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



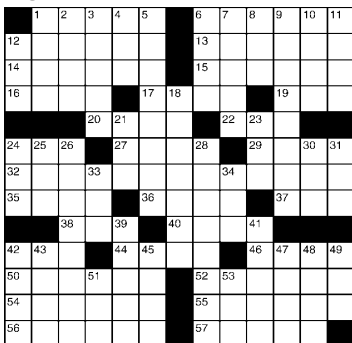
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Suggest
6 Get back at
12 Om, e.g.
13 City of India
14 Dormant
15 Hymnbook
16 Prayer
17 Black, in verse
19 Mag. staffers
20 Art's art
22 Pantheon member
24 Filch
27 Options list
29 Tie
32 News-making
35 Concept
36 Recognize
37 JFK info
38 Pump up the volume
40 Tarzan's posse
42 Moment
44 Basilica section
46 Criterion
50 Emit carbon dioxide
52 Lo mein ingredient
54 Pinnacles
55 Had coming
56 Quadrilla member
57 Wood nymph

Down

- 1 "Que —?"
2 Siblingless
3 Lieu
4 Rage
5 CD player's ancestor
6 Bullets
7 In competition
8 Ar follower
9 Plunge
10 Alumnus
11 Slithery group
12 More, to
18 Woody Allen movie
21 Parisian pal
23 Kyoto cummerbund
24 Actor
25 North African lute
26 Pulpit VIP
28 Still in the box
30 Part of GNP
31 "CSI" evidence
33 Male sheep ...
34 ... and its mate
39 Less ruddy
41 Bedtime treat
42 Membership
43 Montreal athlete
45 Mexican money
47 Author Ferber
48 Coaster
49 Bill's co-adventurer
51 Give the heave-ho
53 Obey the coxswain

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-20

CRYPTOQUIP

N U F Z Z J U M H Z Q J H S
G M U N E B N B E U S H S N U S N T H X
T P H Q S U T J F X G Y M X H Y M X M G
H E Q H Z P N S N H Q S N U S
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE USED TO PRODUCE TOOTH PASTE CONTAINERS, BUT OUR BUSINESS WENT DOWN THE TUBES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

Young girls: Use caution on Web

Dear Abby: I am deeply in love with a man who is handsome, smart and loving. We are engaged and happy together. The problem? We met on the Internet.

Abby, he thinks I am 26, but I'm not. Everything I've said to him has been a lie. I am really 12. I have tried to tell him the truth, but he doesn't believe me or thinks I'm joking. I try to break up with him, but we both can't say good-bye forever. I am 100 percent sure it's love.

He is planning to visit me in January. He says we will get married and have a nice future together. No one knows about this, so I need your help. What do I do next? How do I let go?

— **Lost in Love in Las Vegas**

Dear Lost in Love: You have been lying on the Internet. What makes you think that he hasn't been lying, too? Has it occurred to you that this man

who "won't let go" could be a child molester in his 40s or 50s? What do you plan to do when he shows up? If you become further involved, he could be arrested! For your safety, I urge you to tell your parents what has been going on. You have gotten yourself in over your head, and you may need more adult intervention than this columnist is able to get you out of the pit you have dug for yourself. Please talk to your parents. TODAY!

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I have a 14-year-old son, "Adam," whose parental grandmother, "Bryna," is making life difficult for him. He has acne, for which he's seeing a dermatologist. He also needs braces, and I'm working on that as well.

When Adam goes to visit Grandma Bryna, he gets put-down after put-down. She "comments" about his acne and

also his teeth.

I am no longer married to her son (he's deceased), and while we were married, we all got pretty much the same treatment. I don't want to sever ties with Bryna, as Adam still wants that connection with his dad. My daughter, who is older, refuses to have anything more to do with her.

When Bryna says these things to my son, she instructs him not to say anything about it to me. I don't want her to accuse him of ratting her out. I am ready to tell her not to contact us again. Should I take such a drastic step and cut off all ties with her?

— **Frustrated in California**

Dear Frustrated: Why not? The woman is spreading poison.

If you had poison oak in your garden, wouldn't you remove it?

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Dallas, CA 95069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUETT					
CANKK					
DELGEP					
GARUJA					

www.jumble.com

Print answer here:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLAKE CATCH POMADE LAVISH
Answer: The miser sneaked into the ice rink because he was — A CHEAP SKATE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

'Giving' in-laws a bit much to take

Dear Annie: I am a married mother of a 3-year-old boy. He is the only grandchild on either side of the family. My problem is with my mother-in-law, a widow on a fixed income, and my sister-in-law, who is married but has no children.

My in-laws like to control everything. When my own sister planned a baby shower for me, my sister-in-law informed me that she would have no part of it because it was "too early." I was seven months' pregnant at the time. The morning of the shower, my mother-in-law told my husband she would not attend because she did not receive a formal invitation, even though we had asked her verbally. I ended up with two showers, one given by my sister and a larger one by my in-laws.

My son's birthday is rapidly approaching, and I am dreading it.

I have repeatedly asked my in-laws to restrict the number of gifts they buy my son, but they

Annie's Mailbox



say this is "what they're supposed to do." My child is turning into a greedy monster, and I don't know how to handle it.

— **Spilled in Sayreville, N.J.**
Dear Spilled: You cannot change your in-laws' behavior without their cooperation. Instead, thank them graciously for the gifts,

allow your son to have one or two, and put the rest away. Keep them in a closet for later, or let your son select some to donate to a hospital or shelter. And tell your husband to back you up.

Dear Annie: I'm responding to "Puzzled in California," who complained that she reclined her airline seat and the passenger behind her kept pushing it.

On a recent flight, the man in front of me reclined his seat fully.

His head was inches from my face, and my legs were pinned

under him. I have hip problems and had to shift frequently, but doing so meant jostling him. The man angrily demanded that I stop kicking his seat.

— **Squished**
Dear Squished: This one struck a nerve with our readers. Read on:

From N.C.: If the person behind me doesn't want my head in his lap, he should ask for an exit row seat and not expect me to sit upright for the duration of the flight.

Tallahassee, Fla.: I am 6 feet 4 inches, and my knees touch the back of the seat in front of me. When that person reclines, it's a painful experience. The airlines could solve the problem by adjusting the seats to recline only one short notch.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate



11-20
©2004 by Jeff and Bill Kunkle. One by King Features Synd. www.JeffandBills.com

"Of course it is. You ate part of yours."

GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



"OKAY, YOU CAN GO BACK TO ARGUING. I WANTED TO BE SURE IT WASN'T ABOUT ME."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Well, I guess I'll have the ham and eggs."

Non Sequitur



"THE GOOD NEWS: I CREATED AN EIGHT-AND-A-HALF-NIGHTLY DISCOVERY OF 'WOBLES' UNKNOWINGLY TO HUMANKIND. IS EVERYTHING NOT DONE AUTOMATICALLY?"

©2004 by Jeff and Bill Kunkle. One by King Features Synd. www.JeffandBills.com

STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

PCS-ing to WASHINGTON DC or Northern VIRGINIA?

Pentagon, Andrews, Ft. Belvoir, or Anywhere!

Call for a **FREE, comprehensive**

Home Buyer's Relocation Package:

Maps, Loan Preapproval Information, School Profiles

Ask for Becky Berning: 703-913-7880

Call Toll Free:

UK: 0800 96 8801

Germany: 0800 181 6459

Italy: 1 678 78158

Netherlands: 0800 229 143

Belgium: 0800 713 77

USA: 800 628 6781

www.MyMilitaryHomeFinder.com

e-mail: **BECKY@longandfoster.com**



Northern VA, Quantico, DC

Bob Graham's Military Buyers Program

\$2,000 CASH BACK!

#1 Military Relocation Specialist

bobnova@erols.com

www.bobgrahamvarelo.com

Free Relo Packet - Long and Foster



Fort Bragg/Pope AFB

Retired Air Force member is willing to locate the right house for you and your family in the Fayetteville area. Contact me for referrals to other areas.

MarkJohnson@remax.net

Direct : (910)391-5804



From Coast to Coast

All Bases and Retirement Destinations

Find your home today!

www.TheEmetGroup.com

- Retired USAF — We know the PCS process
- Serving all the Military Community
- Do your loan qualification now, before you PCS

Want more? Contact us
wlamerton@tampabay.rr.com
Toll Free 866-856-6318



Walter & Susan Lamerton
Realtor®, Licensed Assistant
GLOBAL Mortgage

Fort Bragg & Pope AFB

www.fayettevilleopenhouse.com

100's of Homes for Sale

100's of Homes for Rent

100's of Pictorial Tours

FREE Real Estate Magazine

MOVING TO HAMPTON ROADS VA?

Langley AFB • Norfolk Naval Base

Yorktown • Norfolk • Hampton

Newport News • Williamsburg • Suffolk

Barbara and Ken Kerwin

Abbitt Realty

1-800-721-5229

US@2Kerwin.com

www.2Kerwin.com

www.WeSellHamptonRoads.com

FORT JACKSON, SC

Web Site: www.fortjacksonrelo.com

E-mail: duker@fortjacksonrelo.com

Call Bob Duker, USA, Ret.

Write: Military Relocation Team

4 Germany Tail per Anytime

7001 St Andrews Rd, Pk# 102 • Columbia, SC 29212

Relocation Package

40 Page Home Buyers Guide • VA Preapproval

(800-225-5288) — 800-447-3536

ARL

30 min. or less commute!

Homes, Horse Farms, New construction.

FT. BRAGG POPE AFB

Live in the "Golf Capital"

Pinehurst, Southern Pines NC

Check out www.moorenc.com

Jim Murray, rayplumas@nc.rr.com

800-528-5742 USA

Moore Co. Real Estate Brokers

Denver-Aurora

Colorado Springs

Parker, Castle Rock, Monument, Lakewood

Colorado PCS Realty

FREE relocation kit, home sales & VA loan information. Check our web site for FREE, temporary, furnished lodging available to our home buying customers.

Phil Mcullen Broker-owner

Email: coloradopcscs@aol.com

USA 1-800-274-0578

www.coloradopcscs.com

FORT GORDON

GEORGIA (Or anywhere in the US)

EXCLUSIVE

Buyers Agent!

Augusta Home Buyer's Connection

See our website for homes, loan information, important area links

E-mail: broker@AugustaHomeBuyers.com

Call: 888-253-2707

www.AugustaHomeBuyers.com

www.AugustaHomeBuyers.com

www.AugustaHomeBuyers.com

RELOCATION FAIR FOR SOLDIERS PCS'ING TO FT BLISS

Jan 12-14th from 3 PM to 7 PM each day

REMAX Elite from El Paso, TX will be hosting a Home Buying Seminar

and provide rental information on the above days at the Windmill Hotel (The Windmill Hotel) Anshach

Vendor Mortgage will be available to answer VA loan questions and other loan questions.

INTERESTED? SPACE IS LIMITED!

Email at: dpolivas@swbnet.net or visit: www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

www.tamolivas.com to reserve.

Fort Hood

Sales and Rentals • FREE Relocation Packets

CALL US Mike or Denise Zehr

"Years of Texas Friendly Service"

Toll Free: 0800-826-4620

1-254-547-2019

506 Town Square Shopping Center

Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

First Community Mortgage

Tammy Thornhill

Assistant Vice President

Tammy.thornhill@1stcm.com

Tel. 254.542.5100

Toll Free: 01.308.18786

1st COMMUNITY MORTGAGE

Equal Housing Lender

www.zehrrealestateteam.com • zehrteam@earthlink.net

Ft. Stewart & Hunter

SALES and RENTALS

Toll Free: 1-800-476-3680

www.fortstewart.com

Coldwell Banker Holtzman, Realtors

Email: cbholtzman@cdls.net

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

730 General Stewart Way • Hinesville, GA 31313

STANDARD ISSUE MEETS A NEW STANDARD

STARS & STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

Wherever You Go, We Go

estripes.osd.mil



Animal-auto crashes break records

Vehicles crashing into deer more than 4,000 times a day

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cars and motorcycles crash into deer more than 4,000 times a day, and it's taking an increasingly deadly toll — on people.

Last year, a record 210 motorists were killed in collisions with animals, mostly deer. That was 40 more than the previous year and more than twice the number in 1993, according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Accidents are most likely to happen in November, the institute said, because hunters are out and deer are in the middle of their mating season, both of which cause the animals to be on the move.

Crashes are most likely to occur during evening or nighttime, often on rural roads with speed limits of 55 mph or higher.

"The deer population is growing and there are more vehicles on the road every year," Allan Williams, the institute's chief scientist, said Wednesday. "There's just a lot more chance for interaction with animals on the roads."

Deer are involved in about 75 percent of fatal animal crashes. In all, there were 1.5 million deer crashes last year, injuring 13,713 people and causing \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage, the institute said.

The study found most animal crashes involved one vehicle and deaths usually were caused when the vehicle left the road or a motorcyclist fell off the bike. In rela-

tively few cases, people were killed when the animal crashed through the windshield.

Other animals that cause crashes include horses, moose, dogs, bears, cats and opossums, though none is responsible for a significant number. Cattle also cause a small percentage of crashes, particularly in Western states.

Such animal-involved fatal crashes have been rising since the mid-1990s, according to federal data analyzed by the institute.

Between 1993 and 1997, an average of 119 fatal crashes occurred each year. Between 1998 and 2002, the figure rose to 155.

The institute said special signs during migratory periods, thinning herds and signs that activate when deer are near roadways have shown promise in reducing

crashes. Drivers also should be alert and slow down in the evenings, Williams said.

But even with precautions some crashes are unavoidable.

"Sometimes animals just appear in the roadway and there's not much chance to react," Williams said.

Motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable, especially when the rider fails to wear a helmet. In the institute's analysis of fatal crashes in nine states, 65 percent of the 60 motorcyclists and all-terrain vehicle riders killed weren't wearing helmets.

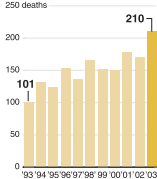
"If an animal hits a motorcycle, the motorcyclist can go off the bike pretty easily," Williams said. The same study found 60 percent of the 93 vehicle occupants killed in animal crashes weren't wearing seat belts.

Deer can be deadly

Cars and motorcycles crash into deer more than 4,000 times a day in the U.S. Last year, a record 210 motorists were killed in collisions with animals, mostly deer.



Fatalities from crashes with animals



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Scientist aims to tag dino fish

BY JANE ARMSTRONG

Toronto Globe and Mail

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Next spring, if all goes according to plan, Scott McKinley will come face to face with some real-live dinosaurs.

If this long-dreamed-of "Jurassic Park" moment comes true, his only regret will be that he won't be able to pet them.

The 52-year-old scientist of British Columbia University will be below the surface of the Indian Ocean, peering through a plastic window in a bubble-shaped, Canadian-built submarine.

He's been asked to participate in a first-ever scientific venture to track the elusive coelacanth, an ancient fish that's been swimming in the deep, dark waters off Africa for about 400 million years.

McKinley's plan is to track and tag the slow-moving fish by stamping their bony, limb-like fins with acoustic transmitters, using the submarine's robotic arm.

The sapphire-blue fish with dagger-shaped teeth can't survive in shallow depths. They live at the bottom of the Indian Ocean in caves.

Little is known about the creature. They don't know what they eat, how long they live, or even how many are left in the sea.

If anything is to be learned about the species, McKinley said, humans must go to the ocean floor, a feat made possible only with small, agile submarines, sometimes referred to as submersibles.

McKinley successfully pitched the idea of using a Nuytoro underwater vessel to an African conservation group seeking funding to research and track the coelacanth. Now, McKinley is trying to drum up the funds to make the trek. He said the five-year research project will cost up to \$4 million.

Exchange New Car Sales brings you The Early-Order Advantage

The SOONER you place your order on selected new 2005 models, the BIGGER your rebate.

These Exchange New Car Sales rebates are a Military Advantage Program exclusive.

Combined with low introductory factory pricing, NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY!

- Privileged Military Pricing • Lowest Price Guarantee* • Delivery in the USA or overseas
- Worldwide factory warranty • Full refund if not completely satisfied at delivery.

Visit your on-base Exchange New Car Sales location, www.encs.com or e-mail us at exch@militarycars.com

Example:
2005 Dodge Rebate:

November 12th - December 3rd:
\$2,005

December 4th - December 25th:
\$1,750

December 26th - January 9th:
\$1,500



*Lowest Price Guarantee in effect up to 14 days after delivery. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to changes made by the manufacturer and the laws or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Vehicles shown are for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment at additional cost. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. See your sales representative for details. Dealer/Chrysler Corporation, Ford and General Motors are authorized contractors of AAFFES and NEXCOM. Exchange New Car Sales is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda and Harley-Davidson vehicles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by AAFFES, NEXCOM, the DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (P) 000

Welcome to Stars and Stripes



At Stars and Stripes, we understand what it's like to be away from home, isolated without news. Whether training at Grafenwoehr, or deployed on a mission... or simply adapting to life on base in the midst of a foreign country, we're there with you, covering your story, from your perspective. We're Stars and Stripes - the independent newspaper for America's Military, offering national, international and military news, as well as sports, entertainment and all of the features you expect in your daily newspaper.

Pick up a copy today, or contact our circulation department for delivery of a sample newspaper to your home or office.*

DSN 349-8347 or 349-8348

Toll Free: 8000-101-1270

Email: circustomerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil

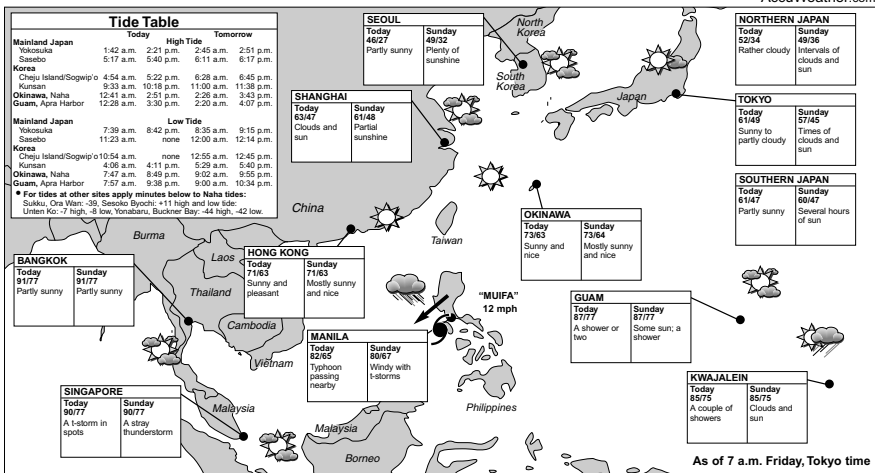
STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper
www.stripes.com

*Mention circulation code - TS - when you contact Stars and Stripes for a free sample.
Offer valid to non-subscribers only, within established delivery areas.

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 62, low 50.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 66, low 57.

KADENA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 68.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 81, low 72.

SEoul

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 53, low 37.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 56, low 32.

MANILA

Monday: Showers, high 84, low 68.
 Tuesday: Showers, high 84, low 67.

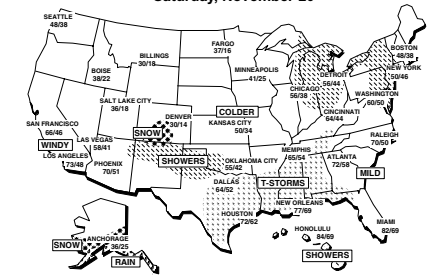
HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 87, low 77.
 Tuesday: Showers, high 85, low 76.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	59/41	Los Angeles	74/52
Amarillo	53/40	Little Rock	61/51
Anchorage	36/28	Louisville	67/54
Ashville	67/50	Miami	79/65
Baltimore	65/47	Milwaukee	60/44
Birmingham	70/56	Nashville	66/52
Bismarck	54/24	New York	60/52
Boise	50/28	Omaha	51/44
Boston	56/46	Orlando	79/56
Brownsville	85/69	Philadelphia	61/49
Buffalo	57/44	Phoenix	74/55
Burlington	51/39	Pittsburgh	59/48
Charleston, SC	72/50	Portland, OR	52/39
Charlotte	71/52	Portland, ME	51/38
Chickasha	63/46	Salt Lake City	49/30
Columbus, OH	64/51	St. Louis	61/50
Duluth	52/30	San Antonio	78/58
El Paso	65/44	San Diego	70/54
Hartford	61/37	San Juan	86/74
Helena	44/25	Tampa	81/60
Indianapolis	64/51	Tulsa	65/48
Jacksonville	74/53	Washington	64/50
Kansas City	60/47	Wichita	62/46

Saturday, November 20



U.S. Extended Forecast

A slow-moving storm system will bring wet weather to start the week-end across the Great Lakes on Saturday. Rain will stretch across the area and extend into the mid-Atlantic region. Showers and thunderstorms will ignite along the associated cold front draped from Illinois and into northern Texas. As the system slides northeastward later in the day, showers and thunderstorms will form across the Southeast. Another developing storm system will bring a couple of showers to northern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle. Snow will fall over the Rockies as unseasonably cold air blasts southward in the wake of a cold front. Meanwhile, an area of high pressure will provide plenty of sun to the West Coast.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/77	Iskani	62/44	Sasebo NB	52/34
Beijing	47/29	Kadena AB	73/63	Sapporo	50/34
Camp Casey	77/49	Kunsan AB	55/36	Seoul	46/27
Christchurch	45/24	Kwajalein	85/75	Shanghai	63/47
Diego Garcia	85/77	Manila	82/65	Singapore	90/77
Hagatna	87/77	Misawa AB	52/32	Sydney	68/46
Hanoi	77/63	Osan	49/29	Taegu	54/34
Hong Kong	71/63	Perth	71/63	Taipei	74/61
Honolulu	84/69	Pusan	57/40	Tokyo	61/49

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	35/23	Kabul	80/53
Athens	61/40	Buenos Aires	77/59	Kiev	33/17
Auckland	68/57	Cairo	76/55	Kuwait	79/54
Baghdad	70/47	Cancun	81/69	London	38/34
Barbados	88/73	Cape Town	78/49	Madrid	62/48
Barcelona	54/45	Geneva	30/27	Mexico City	72/50
Berlin	33/24	Istanbul	51/27	Montreal	38/34
Bermuda	70/59	Jerusalem	68/50	Mogadishu	85/72
Brussels	35/28	Johannesburg	84/64	Moscow	32/18
				Warsaw	28/17



Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or bicycle in Stars and Stripes. No charge! On us! Up to 7 lines of copy for 24 hours - free! Call classified today at 229-3276 or email at classified@starsandstripes.com. Individuals only - no dealers!

Now Hometown Newspaper
STARS & STRIPES
www.starsandstripes.com

Report: Spurrier bound for South Carolina

Newspaper says ex-Florida coach will step in if Holtz retires after season

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Steve Spurrier has agreed to take over as football coach at South Carolina if Lou Holtz retires at the end of the season. The Tennessean of Nashville reported in Thursday's editions.

An announcement regarding Spurrier, who won a national championship at Florida, is expected next week, the newspaper said, citing an anonymous source close to the situation.

South Carolina spokesman Kerry Tharp denied the report. He said the 67-year-old Holtz still needs to decide whether to return for a seventh season with the Gamecocks.



Steve Spurrier

"Let's let him make that assessment," Tharp told The Associated Press. "I can't comment on what

people are speculating. I'd just as soon leave it at that."

South Carolina athletic director Mike McGee would not confirm or deny the report and referred all questions to Tharp. Holtz canceled a scheduled meeting with the media Thursday after practice.

Several times this season Holtz has said he felt tired and worn out. He's also mentioned that Spurrier would be a good choice to succeed him.

This week, as the Gamecocks (6-4, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) prepared for Saturday's game with Clemson, Holtz addressed reports that South Carolina contacted Spurrier.

"I've talked to Steve," Holtz said. "I don't want to go in that direction, but I have talked to him. We talked about how you cure a slice, his son, etc. Steve's a good friend of mine, as I said. All I want to talk about is Clemson, Clemson, Clemson. That's all. That's the only thing on my mind."

There was much speculation that Spurrier would return to Florida next season, following the recent firing of Ron Zook. But Spurrier pulled his name out of the running, saying coaching 12 years at one school was probably enough.

Spurrier and Holtz are friends. Spurrier helped Holtz's wife,

Beth, obtain an appointment with Florida's NCAA faculty advisor Dr. Nicholas Cassisi for treatment for her throat cancer.

Spurrier, 59, went 20-13-1 in three seasons at Duke before taking over at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990. The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Spurrier abruptly left after the 2001 season, taking over for Washington Redskins. Spurrier resigned after two seasons with a 12-20 record.

MLB owners delay vote on Expos' move

By NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Major League Baseball owners surprisingly did not vote Thursday on the proposed move of the Montreal Expos to Washington.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said he still expected the move to take place, and said owners will vote on the deal by Dec. 6.

"There are a myriad of issues still in play, so there was no vote taken," Selig said.

"There will be a vote in the very near future."

The District of Columbia government has delayed approving financing for a new ballpark. The Expos' agreement with Washington calls for funding to be in place by Dec. 31.

"The City Council has nothing to do with it," Selig said, adding that the postponement of a decision was caused by "internal issues."

Baseball officials said they planned to announce Friday when

the franchise will be renamed.

There has been great local interest in Expos in Washington, which has been without a major league team since 1971, and season tickets went on sale Thursday morning. Plans call for a new ballpark to be built along the Anacostia River, about a dozen blocks east of the U.S. Capitol, and for the Expos to play there starting in 2008.

While the agreement estimates the cost of refurbishing RFK Stadium, land acquisition and ball-

park construction at \$435 million, some D.C. council members have claimed it would be far higher, perhaps \$600 million or more.

District of Columbia Council Chair Linda Cropp postponed a Nov. 9 vote on the deal, saying the District should spend two weeks seeking private financing. The money would come from a new tax on the city's largest businesses, a tax on baseball-related income and lease payments by the team's new owners.

NHL lockout unlikely to end anytime soon

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The NHL players' union is answering the league's hard stance with one of its own, offering little hope for resolution of the lockout that threatens to wipe out the entire season.

The NHL Players' Association and 62 agents presented a unified front as they emerged from a six-hour informational session Wednesday, saying the union has no intention of making a proposal and it's now up to the owners to come to the bargaining table.

If the owners refuse to budge, hockey won't be played for a long, long time," agent Ritch Winter said.

"I guarantee the framework laid by the NHLPA will be what we will sign at one point," Winter said. "I can only hope the owners pay a little more attention, understand what it proposes, because it appears for the most part they do. When they do, I'd say I understand the players as a group have given in a way that guarantees we can play hockey."

The lockout, in its 63rd day, was imposed by Commissioner Gary Bettman after the collective bargaining agreement expired Sept. 15.

The NHL and the players' association haven't met since Sept. 9, and have no plans to return to the bargaining table.

The All-Star Game has already been canceled, and the Stanley Cup finals are in danger of being wiped out for the first time since 1919, when the series between Montreal and Seattle was stopped after five games due to a Spanish influenza epidemic.

"We've got real concerns that we're going to lose the season," there's no question," agent Don Bailey said.

English golfer apologizes for saying he 'hates' Americans

The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — English golfer Paul Casey apologized Thursday for derogatory comments he made about Americans.

Casey was quoted in English newspapers saying he "hated" Americans. He said he'd made the statement in the context of the attitude he had going into the Ryder Cup two months ago, while Europe won in a landslide against the United States.

"I'd like to apologize and do everything I could to take it back," Casey said Thursday, after shooting a 61 under par 61 with partner Luke Donald in the World Cup.

Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley and Austria's Martin Wiegand and Markus Brier shared the first-round lead with a score of 60.

Casey, 27, lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, attended college at Arizona State and will play full-time next season on the U.S. PGA Tour. He said he had been besieged with "huge negative feedback, a lot of nasty stuff" after his comments were widely reported on Wednesday.

He said he explained himself to American golfers Bob Taylor and Scott Verplank, who are playing in the tournament in Seville.

"I think they understood. At least I hope they did," he said. A headline quoting Casey in

Sports briefs

Wednesday's The Mirror newspaper read: "Americans are stupid. I hate them." He went on in the story to criticize the choice of Tom Lehman as 2006 American Ryder Cup captain.

"I regret what I said. Unfortunately the story has been run with and there is nothing I can do about that," Casey said. "I can't do anything to correct it now. I wish I could."

"I have nothing against the States whatsoever. I wouldn't love them if I did. I pay my taxes there, my coach, girlfriend and friends are there. I wish I could take it back."

U.S. keeps Jamaica from advancing in Cup qualifying

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jamaica failed to advance in World Cup qualifying, tying the United States 1-1 Wednesday in a game the Reggae Bobs needed to win.

For the Americans, the match was merely a tune-up and a chance to give several young players World Cup qualifying experience. The Americans, who got a goal from Eddie Johnson, won a spot in next year's six-team regional finals with a 6-0 win over Panama last month.

Panama advanced to the region-

als finals with a 3-0 win over El Salvador on Wednesday.

Ohio fires football coach

ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio coach Brian Korr was fired Thursday after leading the Bobcats to an 11-35 record in four seasons.

Ohio had a 4-7 mark this season. The Bobcats opened the season 3-2, including a win at Kentucky, but then dropped five of their last six games. Ohio went 2-10 in 2003.

Korr was promoted from defensive coordinator to head coach in December 2000 after Jim Grobe left to coach Wake Forest.

Woods takes early lead in Dunlop Phoenix

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods overcame soggy conditions to fire a 5-under 65 for a three-stroke lead Thursday after the first round of the Dunlop Phoenix.

Playing in a steady downpour at the Phoenix Country Club, Woods opened with a birdie on the par-3 10th hole and added four more to take the lead in the \$1.89 million tournament, the richest on the Japanese tour.

Greek sprinters charged with doping

ATHENS, Greece — Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou and their coach

were charged Thursday with avoiding a drug test on the eve of the Athens Olympics and faking a motorcycle accident hours later.

Chief prosecutor Dimitris Papanagelopoulos, announcing the results of a two-month investigation, issued charges against the two athletes and coach Christos Tzolis. The coach was also charged with illegally importing and selling banned substances.

Twelve others — including seven doctors at the state-run hospital where Thanou and Kenteris were treated after the alleged motorcycle crash — were charged with making false statements.

Kenteris, 31, won gold in the 200 meters at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and Thanou, 29, won silver in the 100 meters.

Hennan easily beats Coria in Masters Cup

HOUSTON — Tim Henman overwhelmed Guillermo Coria 6-2, 6-2 Thursday in a third-round action in the ATP Masters Cup Championships.

Hennan evened his record at 1-1, while French Open finalist Coria, still recovering from shoulder surgery, dropped to 0-2. The top players from the Red and Blue groups meet in Saturday's semifinals.

Later, second-seeded Andy Roddick was to face Marat Safin in a matchup of past ATP main champions.

Confident Wolfpack overwhelms New Orleans

Balanced attack gives N.C. State easy victory

By KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Time and again, a North Carolina State player turned down an open shot, choosing instead to pass the ball to an open teammate.

"I'm just really proud of them, because they did it the right way," Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek said. "We all kind of like ourselves, and it's commendable when you have people willing to share."

Julius Hodge led a balanced attack with 21 points, and No. 19 N.C. State jumped on New Orleans early in a 92-58 victory Wednesday night in the first round of the BCA Invitational.

Jordan Collins scored a career-high 17 points, Engin Atsar had 14 and four other players finished with at least eight.

"We shared the ball tonight like never before," said Tony Bethel, who joined Hodge with a game-high six assists. "We made the extra pass. Guys were passing up good shots to get a great one." N.C. State advanced to the second



North Carolina State's Cameron Bennerman (13) takes the ball away from New Orleans' Bo McCalebb during the first half Wednesday in the first round of the BCA Invitational in Raleigh, N.C.

round and will play Elon, which beat Fairleigh Dickinson 73-59.

The Wolfpack made their first five shots and scored the first 11 points, never giving the Privateers

and coach Monte Towe a chance.

Towe starred at N.C. State during the 1970s, leading a team that included David Thompson and Tommy Burleson to the 1974

NCAA championship.

Thompson and Burleson sat behind the scorer's table for this one, watching as their former teammate tried in vain to keep New Orleans in the game. The Privateers had more turnovers than baskets well into the second half, and they even resorted to running down the shot clock.

Nothing helped, mostly because the Wolfpack were too good. After Collins started the scoring with two free throws, Bethel and Levi Watkins each made two three-pointers. Collins added a three-point play, and N.C. State didn't miss until Hodge's first shot about 5½ minutes into the game.

"This has been a highlight for me, to bring my team in here to Raleigh," Towe said. "I have to give North Carolina State all the credit in the world. I've always thought Herb Sendek has done a great job, and he'll continue to do so if everybody keeps supporting him."

Atsar had four threes — all in the first half — as the Wolfpack went 11-for-28 from beyond the arc. They had 80 points with well over 10 minutes left in the game, thanks to that unselfish style of play that included 24 assists.

Bo McCalebb led New Orleans with 21 points, the team's only player in double figures.

"I have to give Bo credit for hanging in there and hanging tough," Towe said. "I thought Bo showed everybody that he can play with anybody in the country."

The Privateers used a brief run to get within 47-27 near the end of the first half, but N.C. State closed with nine straight points.

Ilan Eytimov started it off with a jumper, and Hodge added two layups.

After a turnover, Cameron Bennerman followed up a miss by Bethel with a powerful dunk. Hodge made a free throw with less than a second left to close out the scoring.

"I guess making shots can be contagious," Hodge said. "Guys were really feeding off each other. This is the most confident the team has been in the offense since I've been here. We're just going to continue to follow the plan."

The second half wasn't much better for New Orleans. With the score 61-37, Collins started a 13-0 spurt with another three-point play. Eytimov followed with a layup of a nifty pass from Bethel. Bennerman had four points and Hodge added his own rim-shaking dunk.

Freshman Gavin Grant closed it out with his first basket, a jumper from the wing.

Attention Active Duty Military!

Earn your Bachelor or Master in Information Technology Management or Bachelor in Computer Science!

Touro University International has the ONLINE Information Technology program for you

- B.S. and M.S. degrees in Information Technology Management or B.S. in Computer Science
- Special rates for military spouses

NO TUITION COST TO YOU! UP TO 28 CREDITS PER YEAR

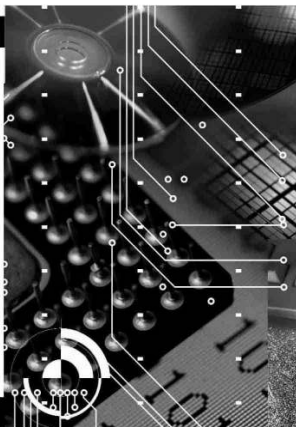


TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL
www.tourou.edu

5665 Plaza Dr., Third Floor, Cypress, CA 90630
800-579-3161 • 714-816-0366 • 714-816-0367 Fax

College of Information Technology e-mail: infocis@tourou.edu
For inquiries log on to: <http://inquiry.tourou.edu>

Now Accepting
Applications
for Winter 2004
Session.



RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



AP PHOTOS; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes

The five drivers in contention for the Nextel Cup entering Sunday's season finale in Homestead, Fla.: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Kurt Busch, Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon.

Season's last race will determine NASCAR's next champion

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

FORGET THE MATH OR THE NIC number of potential scenarios to determine who will win NASCAR's Nextel Cup title.

There should be only one strategy for the five drivers still eligible to win the title Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway: win the race and don't worry about what the other competitors are doing.

With five races separated by 82 points headed into the final event of NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship, a crew chief could go mad trying to crunch the numbers to how to win this driver has to do to win.

So why even bother? "We'll have a Go for broke" attitude, said four-time series champion Jeff Gordon. "We have nothing

to lose, we'll give it everything we've got, and hope to come out on top."

"We have to win." Kurt Busch heads into the finale with an 18-point lead over Jimmie Johnson. Gordon trails Busch by 21 points. Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 out and Mark Martin is 82 points behind.

The race is so tight that even if Gordon wins and leads the most laps, he can still lose the title if Busch simply finishes second.

The only sure bet is Busch. If he wins the race, he wins his first series title no matter what the others do.

Under the current scoring system, a win earns 180 points, a last-place finish gets 34 points and all the positions in between are staggered. Five-point bonuses are given to any driver who leads a lap, and an additional five-point bonus is awarded for leading the most laps in a race.

So if Busch wins the race, he is guaranteed 185 points. Even if Johnson, or Gordon, or anyone else finishes second and earned two bonuses — five points for leading one lap, and five more for leading the most laps — it would still only equal 180 points, not enough to overcome the lead Busch already has.

"I think if I'm Kurt, I would be really nervous," said Earnhardt. "He's in the situation where, you know, it's really basically up to him and his team to win or lose it."

Earnhardt and Martin have a much tougher battle ahead because, for all practical purposes, it's a three-man chase. Both of them can only hope to play the spoiler.

At 72 points back, Earnhardt needs a terrific finish and hope the three drivers ahead of him all have horrible finishes.

If Junior won the race and led

the most laps, Busch would have to finish 29th or worse and not lead a lap for Earnhardt to win the title. But Earnhardt would still have to contend with Gordon and Johnson and hope both of them also finished well behind him.

"We dug ourselves a pretty big hole, and it will be difficult to climb out and still win this championship," Earnhardt said.

"We're going to have to be the best team at Homestead as well as the luckiest."

"I think the Boston Red Sox kind of showed everybody this year what a team can achieve by not giving up, so we'll go into Homestead as a team still with a chance to win the championship."

Martin is in the same situation. Still searching for his first series title, he's stopped thinking about how to win it and focused instead on the only thing he can control.

"We are 82 out, but we still

have a shot, but it really doesn't matter because we are going there to try and win the [race] and that's really all we can do," Martin said.

The points scenario is similar to the 1992 race, when four drivers battled for that title.

In the season-ending event at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the late Davey Allison started with a 30-point lead over the late Alan Kulwicki. Allison was 40 points up on Bill Elliott.

Allison needed to finish sixth or better to clinch the title, but after running sixth for much of the race, he crashed with Ernie Irvan. Kulwicki and Elliott were left to decide the title, and because Kulwicki led the most laps in the race, he clinched the 10-point bonus.

Elliott won the race, Kulwicki finished second and won the title because he led a single lap more than Elliott.

It could get just as wild at Homestead.

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 36: Ford 400, 2 a.m. Monday, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson won for the fourth time in five races and moved within 18 points of standings leader Kurt Busch by taking the Mountain Dew Southern 500 in Darlington, S.C. Five drivers head into this weekend's finale separated by just 82 points.

Last year: Bobby Labonte won the Ford 400 after Bill Elliott's rear tire exploded on the last lap.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Kurt Busch will win the championship if he wins the Ford 400. He can also win the championship if he finishes second and earns five bonus points for leading at least one lap.

Jimmie Johnson has four victories in the title hunt, but he's still very much in the title hunt. He scored four top-10 finishes in the last five races and five races at Homestead, but it's one of only four Nextel Cup races where he's never won.

Jeff Gordon has four victories in the title hunt, but he's still very much in the title hunt. He scored four top-10 finishes in the last five races and five races at Homestead, but it's one of only four Nextel Cup races where he's never won.

Nextel Cup qualifying record
Kurt Busch, 181.111 mph, 2003

Nextel Cup race record
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 16, 2003

FAST FACTS

The last time a points race was this close heading into the final event was 1992, when six drivers were separated by 113 points. Alan Kulwicki won that year.

The polewinner has won this race two of the last three years.

NASCAR chairman Brian France announced Monday that the new points system will be retained next year.

BUSCH SERIES

Last year: Controversy clouded the history of the series with Travis Kvapil winning the title and Ted Musgrave winning the Ford 400. Musgrave was penalized for starting out of his assigned position and pulling to the left alongside Brian Setzer to complete every lap of a season.

INDY RACING
Last race: Hello Castroneves picked up his first win in 19 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Kanaan took his second win, becoming the first driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

CHAMP CARS
Last race: Sebastian Bourdais overcame a spin and a sticky gearbox to win the first Champ Car title, beating teammate Bruno Junqueira, who was the first driver in the Mexican Grand Prix.

FORMULA ONE
Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-BMW, beating future McLaren teammate Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Oct. 24.

POINTS RACE

After 35 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch 6,346
2. Jimmie Johnson 6,328
3. Jeff Gordon 6,325
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 6,274
5. Mark Martin 6,264
6. Tony Stewart 6,181
7. Ryan Newman 6,102
8. Elliott Sadler 5,963
9. Matt Kenseth 5,963
10. Jeremy McQuerry 5,942
11. Jamie McMurray 4,551
12. Casey Kashe 4,425
13. Bobby Labonte 4,145
14. Dale Jarrett 4,123
15. Kevin Harvick 4,094
16. Jeff Burton 3,847
17. Rusty Wallace 3,813
18. Joe Nemechek 3,796
19. Michael Waltrip 3,766
20. Sterling Martin 3,742

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK
Last year: Hello Castroneves picked up his first win in 19 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Kanaan took his second win, becoming the first driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

CHAMP CARS
Last race: Sebastian Bourdais overcame a spin and a sticky gearbox to win the first Champ Car title, beating teammate Bruno Junqueira, who was the first driver in the Mexican Grand Prix.

FORMULA ONE
Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-BMW, beating future McLaren teammate Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Oct. 24.

Eagles' WR Owens apologizes for role in 'M' skit

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — While Terrell Owens would never say he's sorry for his flashy touchdown celebrations, he did apologize Thursday to anyone offended by his role in a steamy segment with actress Nicolette Sheridan for the hit to "Monday Night Football."

"I felt like it was clean, the organization felt like it was a clean skit and I think it really just got taken out of context with a lot of people and I apologize for that," Owens said.

"Personally I didn't think it would have offended anyone and, if it did, I apologize."

ABC and the Eagles also apologized this week, with the team saying it wished the titillating segment never aired.

The opening, which has generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Com-



Owens

mission, showed Sheridan of the hit show "Desperate Housewives" wearing only a towel and provocative, asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms.

Owens had no idea the intro would create such outrage.

"I thought it was a fun skit and that was it," Owens said.

Owens, known for his outrageous touchdown celebrations, seemed to believe the skit was generating controversy because of his participation, not because

of simulated nudity.

"Anything I get involved with, I'm obviously a target," he said. "It happened."

The sexually charged promo goes way beyond Owens.

Reaction — are you ready for some controversy? — has ranged from amusement to anger.

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy found it racially offensive; Owens is black and Sheridan is white.

Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb wasn't quite as vocal, saying he didn't find the segment offensive and believed people were overreacting. Michael Powell, chairman of the FCC, questioned ABC's judgment in airing the scene.

Even Rush Limbaugh, who made a rally charged critique of McNabb last season, chimed in on his radio show, saying he was "shocked" by the content, which

was "too close to this Kobe Bryant situation for comfort."

Eagles receiver Freddie Mitchell said Thursday it was difficult to know if Dungy was correct about the incident being "stereotypical" of black athletes without seeing reaction of the same promo with a white athlete. Mitchell also said the hoopla was magnified because of Owens' participation.

"TO has a lot of haters out there that really hate him and want to see him do wrong, so they blow a lot of little stunts out of proportion," Mitchell said.

Owens claimed he hadn't heard any of Dungy's reaction and wondered what all the fuss was about when kids can watch potentially offensive programming at the same time every night.

"I don't think it's any different than little kids watching 'South Park' or 'King of the Hill' or

things of that nature," Owens said. "Everybody knows the content surrounded by those shows. My thing is, what's the difference?"

The difference is that most parents know the content of those shows and might try and keep their children away from the potty-mouthed cartoons. Parents save their kids from seeing something sex spontaneously airs before a football game.

Then again, one should know by now that sex and sports go together like Ovens and distractions. Just check out the close-up shots of scantily clad cheerleaders, ever-present ads for erectile dysfunction or Jack Jackson's wardrobe malfunction at February's Super Bowl.

When asked if he was shocked the story made the front page of newspapers around the country, Owens quipped, "I always make the front page."

Brumel: Benchwarming at end of career

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Mark Brumel is 34 years old, has the worst stats in the league and has lost his job to a younger player two years in a row.

Is retirement on the table? "No, I don't think it's the Washington Redskins quarterback said. "I feel real good about how I can play. It hasn't worked out this year, but I'm going to come back. But I still have a lot of confidence."

He has to draw deep within himself to find the reason for a 63.9 quarterback rating ranks last in the NFL, a far cry from his 85.2 rating that ranked 11th in NFL history at the start of the season.

Last year, he was made expendable in Jacksonville by the arrival of Byron Leftwich. This year, he was replaced by Patrick Ramsey.

Brumel's games have made for difficult viewing. He has shown no consistent ability to complete passes downfield, and even his short throws to wide open receivers are missing the mark. Yet, Brumel and the coaching staff insist the 11-year veteran has more snaps to play before he's done.

"I've had a lot of success in this league," Brumel said.

"And the body feels good. It's always one week at a time, one season at a time, but right now, going into this week, I'm the backup. That's my role, and I will have a good attitude and keep working hard and see where this goes."

Bucs DT McFarland out for season with triceps injury

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers' injury-riddled defensive line suffered another major blow Thursday — tackle Anthony McFarland will be miss the remainder of the season with a torn right triceps.

McFarland, who signed a six-year, \$31 million contract that included a \$9.5 million signing bonus before last season, will have surgery to correct the problem that sidelined him most of the past two games.



Briefs

"It's just one of those things. ... You can't complain, you've got to get it taken care of and move on," McFarland said by telephone after undergoing an MRI examination in Birmingham, Ala.

The Bucs played the six-year pro on injured reserve and plan to keep Chidi Ahanotu, signed last week because of a lack of depth on the defensive line, in the starting lineup.

McFarland is the third player lost at the under tackle position in the past four games, joining Ellis Wynn (knee) and Damian Gregory (shoulder) on IR.

Delhomme encouraged that he'll play Sunday

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme said he's encouraged about his chances of playing against the Arizona Cardinals after throwing Thursday for the first time this week.

Delhomme didn't take any snaps during practice and was held out of team drills, but did throw on the side for the first time since suffering a hairline fracture in his right thumb six past Sunday at San Francisco.

"I was encouraged, very encouraged — we'll leave it at that," said Delhomme, who has started 28 straight games for Carolina, including four in the postseason last season.

Delhomme thinks he'll play this week, although he's questionable on the team's injury report. Delhomme is coming off his best two games of the season against Oakland and San Francisco, having thrown for 602 yards and six touchdowns with no interceptions.

Delhomme has games before that. Delhomme had thrown just six touchdown passes with 11 interception attempts against much tougher competition.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, following our Page 45 prognosticating injury report, provided by the league's medical staff:

PHILADELPHIA WR Randy Moss (hamstring) is listed as doubtful, but the team has said he will not play this week.

JACKSONVILLE QB Byron Leftwich (knee) is doubtful. David Garrard will start in his place.

INDIANAPOLIS TE Chad Muma (torn ligament in left foot) was placed in injured list Thursday.

Titans QB McNair practices but his status uncertain

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair practiced with the first team Wednesday, but coach Jeff Fisher said whether the co-MVP of 2003 plays Sunday against Jacksonville remains a game-time decision.

McNair has not played since bruising his chest for the second time in the second quarter of a 20-3 loss at Minnesota on Oct. 24.

Wednesday to the training room for treatment, then had a meeting and did not speak to reporters.

The Titans (3-6) worry that another injury to the chest would knock out McNair for another two to three weeks, and there's a chance neither starting offensive tackle will play.

Pro Bowl left tackle Brad Hopkins had surgery to repair broken bones in his right hand Wednesday and will be replaced by Jason Matthews, an 11-year veteran. Matthews also has started right guard and tight end this season for the banged-up Titans.

They also might be without veteran right tackle Fred Miller who has struggled with a sore right ankle the past couple weeks. Miller would have left last week's 19-17 overtime loss to Chicago if Hopkins had not broken his hand.

No fine for alleged spitting

ASHBURN, Va. — The NFL will not fine Washington Redskins' Sean Taylor for looking into allegations that a Cincinnati player was spit on during Sunday's game.

Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said one of his players was spit on during Cincinnati's victory. Lewis did not name either player involved, although comments from receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh implied the culprit was Taylor.

The league, as it does every week, carefully examined every play of the game and found insufficient evidence for action.

"Sean Taylor will not be fined," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said Thursday. "There was no video evidence to support a fine."

Taylor has not commented on the matter. The No. 5 overall draft pick from Miami hasn't spoken to the media since he was arrested and charged with drunken driving on Oct. 28.

Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said Wednesday he had not discussed the spitting matter with Taylor.

"It really hasn't been a big deal to me," said Gibbs, who added "I don't have a clue what's happened here."

Cowboys RB Jones practices

IRVING, Texas — Julius Jones practiced for the first time in almost two months Wednesday but isn't expected to play this week for the Dallas Cowboys.

The rookie running back has been out since he broke his left shoulder in the NFL debut, the Cowboys' 19-12 victory over Cleveland on Sept. 19.

Coach Bill Parcells listed Jones as "out" for Sunday's game at Baltimore, but the Cowboys said he may be ready when former Colts wide receiver

Former All-Pro Luis Sharpe sentenced to prison

PHOENIX — Former Arizona Cardinals tackle Luis Sharpe, who pleaded guilty to possession of narcotics last month, was sentenced Thursday to 2½ years in state prison.

Sharpe, a former All-Pro who played with the Cardinals from 1982-94, was arrested in April by officers who reported seeing him buy drugs. Sharpe allegedly had been in jail for a little over his car as officers moved in.

Sharpe has had numerous run-ins with the law since 1995.

Line: Sticking to run gave Steelers' OL confidence

LINE, FROM BACK PAGE

The results are obvious. The line was so dominating during a 27-3 victory over the Eagles on Nov. 7 that television repeatedly showed players complaining loud enough for a bus to drive through — or for the Bucs, Jerome Bettis, to run through.

"I think that we're going to run the ball six, seven times in a row and you just run it," Faneua said. "Just pounding it and driving it and running, we feed off that."

Jeff Hartings, a nine-year veteran at center and the team's most experienced lineman, agrees it would be difficult for any line to be playing much better.

Offensive line coach Russ Grimm might not agree — after all, he played on one of the best-known lines ever for the Super Bowl champion Redskins. But he appreciates what he's seeing in the Steelers' line, which he says is about a half-season.

"Now, can we do it consistently?" he said. "That's the toughest thing."

Vincent doesn't see any let-down coming.

"What I need about this year is to practice, a lot of us know the things we crazy about work on and we'll just work on it ourselves," he said. "We take pride in what we do."

The Steelers are proving an offensive line need not be stuffed with expensive high draft picks to be successful. While Faneua and Smith are let go, Vincent, who was an undrafted rookie free agent in 2001 and Ross didn't play a game in 1999 or go following a brief trial in 1998.

"The fall of the offense last year fell on our shoulders," Faneua said. "So let's bag a little respect for ourselves knowing that us playing well is helping out the offense this year."

Full-strength Pistons top T-wolves

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Larry Brown was coaching again, Ben Wallace and Chauncey Billups were in the lineup again, and the Detroit Pistons defense showed up, too.

After allowing more than 100 points in back-to-back losses, Detroit shut down the Minnesota Timberwolves down the stretch en route to a 93-85 victory Wednesday night.

"Having Chauncey and Ben back was more important than me, that's for sure," Brown said. "Losing those two has a big effect on your team."

Billups, who missed the Pistons' loss in Utah with a sprained ankle, had 15 of his 21 points in the third quarter.

"I just wanted to be aggressive out there," he said. "We played the way we play — good defense and we took stuff away from Minnesota."

Wallace was out two games because of a death in his family, but returned to help Detroit hold Minnesota scoreless during a key six-minute stretch of the fourth.

"That's our game," he said. "Our legs were fresh and we were able to play tight defense."

Brown missed five games, including three losses, with a hip problem. The team announced an hour before the game that he would probably not coach, but he joined the team during pregame introductions. Brown had a special chair at courtside to ease the pain.

"I felt stupid — Joe Dumars told me that I must be the first coach to ever be a

game-time decision," Brown said.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 24 points and Tayshaun Prince added 19.

Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, while Latrell Sprewell scored 24.

"Detroit makes it tough on you, because all five of their players go to the basket," Garnett said. "They make you beat them by shooting jump shots, and you can't win a game that way."

Pacers 93, Hawks 86: At Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 25 points and 13 rebounds to offset a dazzling performance by friend and former teammate Al Harrington.

Austin Croshere added 13 points, 13 rebounds and two electrifying dunks in the fourth quarter to help the Pacers ward off the Hawks.

Harrington, who spent his first six seasons in Indiana before being traded in the offseason for Stephen Jackson, scored 30 points in 12-for-19 shooting in his first game against his former team.

Wizards 110, Celtics 105 (OT): Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, Gilbert Arenas had 25, and host Washington shut out Boston for the first 4:47 of overtime.

Jared Jeffries added a career-high 15 points in his first start of the season. He also blocked a jumper by Paul Pierce in overtime and drew a crucial charge on Pierce in the extra period. Pierce led the Celtics with a season-high 37 points, but didn't score in overtime until making a three-point shot in the final 10 seconds.

Magic 107, Jazz 92: At Orlando, Grant Hill scored 32 points and Steve Francis had season highs of 33 points and 11 assists

for the Magic.

Mostly shooting jumpers over Andrei Kirilenko, usually a dependable defensive stopper, Hill was 13-for-18 in his best offensive performance since scoring 36 points against Minnesota on April 10, 2000.

Playing a season-high 41 minutes, Hill added five rebounds and five assists.

SuperSonics 79, Nets 68: Despite starting the first half 0-for-10 and the second half 0-for-8, Seattle got some timely offense from Rashard Lewis and improved the NBA's best record to 8-1.

Seattle's eighth straight win came on the road against a Nets team that had more fouls (29) than field goals (26) and committed 23 turnovers.

Suns 95, Hornets 84: Amare Stoudemire's career-high 38 points — one night after he scored 34 at Dallas — led Phoenix over the winless Hornets.

The host Hornets attempted only two foul shots, tying an NBA low and breaking the team mark they set in Milwaukee on Saturday night when they took only three.

Heat 113, Bucks 106: At Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 26 points, and Eddie Jones had 27 to help Miami beat the Bucks for the second time in four days.

Dwyane Wade added 18 points and seven assists.

Grizzlies 101, Trail Blazers 82: Bonzi Wells scored 25 points against his former team, and Memphis beat Portland for its first road victory of the season.

Paul Gasol added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who led by as many as 34.



Detroit Pistons guard Chauncey Billups (11) shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves guard Sam Cassell on Wednesday.

Warriors 98, Bulls 85: Jason Richardson had 27 points, eight rebounds and four assists, and Golden State beat winless Chicago.

Speedy Claxton added 14 points and 11 assists before fouling out late for the Warriors, who won at home for the first time in four games this season.

Lakers 103, Clippers 89: Kobe Bryant had 23 points, six rebounds and a season-high 11 assists, and Chuckie Atkins scored 12 of his 17 points in the first 6½ minutes of the fourth quarter for the Lakers.

The Lakers are 18-3 against the Clippers at Staples Center since the arena opened five years ago, and have a 27-3 record in the last 30 games between the teams.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.strips.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at www.strips.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper



SPORTS



Time to 'go for broke'
for five drivers still
in the Chase, Page 44

Anthony cleared for takeoff



After having marijuana possession charges dropped, Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, left, scored 30 points against the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night, helping Denver win 112-106. See Page 46.

For Steelers, it's a fine line

Players say main reason for turnaround is effort of five guys in trenches

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — When the Pittsburgh Steelers vote for the team's most valuable player this year, a lot of ballots might be split five ways.

Even with so many players enjoying big seasons — Ben Roethlisberger, Duce Staley, James Farrior and Troy Polamalu — the Steelers agree almost unanimously that the offensive line is the main reason for their dramatic turnaround.

One season after the Steelers endured their worst season running the ball since 1967, they are No. 2 in rushing — with only 20 fewer yards in nine games than they had in 16 last season. They're well down the list in sacks allowed, too, with only 15 — 25 fewer than the New York Giants.

Massive personnel changes aren't the reason for the upgrade; each of the five regulars started at least nine games last season except left tackle Marvel Smith, limited to six starts by a neck injury.

So how could a line that played well below expectations on a 6-10 team last year be performing at such a high level this season on an 8-1 team?

"There's been a big emphasis on the run this year from the start," former All-Pro guard Alan Faneca said Wednesday. "We've

been running the ball a lot and getting a lot of chances, and the running backs have been doing a good job of getting through the holes."

Last year, the Steelers abandoned their long-standing commitment to the running game to emphasize quarterback Tommy Maddox's throwing, a byproduct of Maddox's strong production once he became the starter in 2002.

This season, the Steelers have emphasized the run since the opening week of camp, when offensive coordinator Ken Whisenand didn't call a single passing play during the first three goal-line scrimmages against the defense.

It's also helped that there have been no injuries since right guard Kendall Simmons (knee) was lost for the season early in camp.

Keyrick Vincent stepped in for Simmons after making nine starts last season and, along with an ever-improving Oliver Ross at right tackle, has stabilized what appeared to be a shaky right side of the line.

"We're all anchored in our spots for a couple of months now, and that helps," Faneca said. "It helps to know what the guy next to you is thinking. It makes life a lot easier out there when you can just let it rip."

SEE LINE ON PAGE 45

Owens apologizes for role in racy 'Monday Night Football' skit

Page 45



Baseball owners delay vote on Expos' move

Page 41



Spurrier reportedly has deal with South Carolina

Page 41

